Mac FORMAT ISSUE 238 September 2011

All your Apple needs

Mac FORMAT

THE TOP 30 LION TIPS

Get more from the new OS X

> Mac > iPad > iPhone

Issue 238 September 2011

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

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- > OS X 10.7 Lion
- > Apple Final Cut Pro X

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iTunes

The Essential Guide

+ How to manage music across your Apple kit!

NEW! MacBook Air and Mac mini reviewed p94

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> iTunes: The Essential Guide > The Top 30 Lion tips > Group Test: six RSS newsreaders > New MacBook Air 13-inch and Mac mini reviewed

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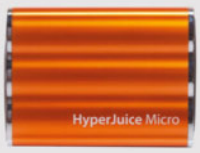

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hyperjuice.com

Welcome...

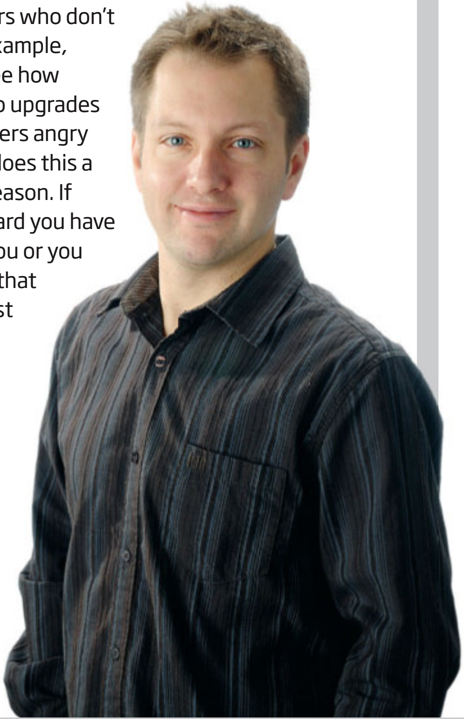
to MacFormat, the UK's No. 1 Mac magazine

>> SUBSCRIBE!

Subscribe to *MacFormat* to **save 35%** on the newsstand price, and get a pair of Sennheiser MM30i headphones as well. **Turn to p30!**

There's so much great stuff packed into this issue of *MacFormat* that I almost don't know what to recommend first! There's our verdict on OS X 10.7 Lion, complete with 30 top tips for getting the most out of it; reviews of both of Apple's latest Macs – the new MacBook Air and Mac mini; the results of our reader poll where we asked you to vote for your favourite Mac of all time; and a brand new section called World of Apps, dedicated to apps for iPhone, iPad and iPod touch. Phew!

I don't want to spoil the results of our reader poll, but I think the Mac that was voted the all-time number one will surprise many of you, and it proves that Apple users are forward-thinking people and not stuck in the past. Apple gets a lot of stick for completely reinventing its products and leaving older users who don't want to upgrade behind. For example, turn to page 88 this issue to see how Apple's scorched earth policy to upgrades has left a lot of *Final Cut Pro* users angry about the new version. Apple does this a lot, but it always does it for a reason. If you want to keep moving forward you have to burn some bridges behind you or you end up with bloated programs that satisfy nobody. Need proof? Just look at Windows!



Graham Barlow, Editor-in-Chief
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

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Contributor

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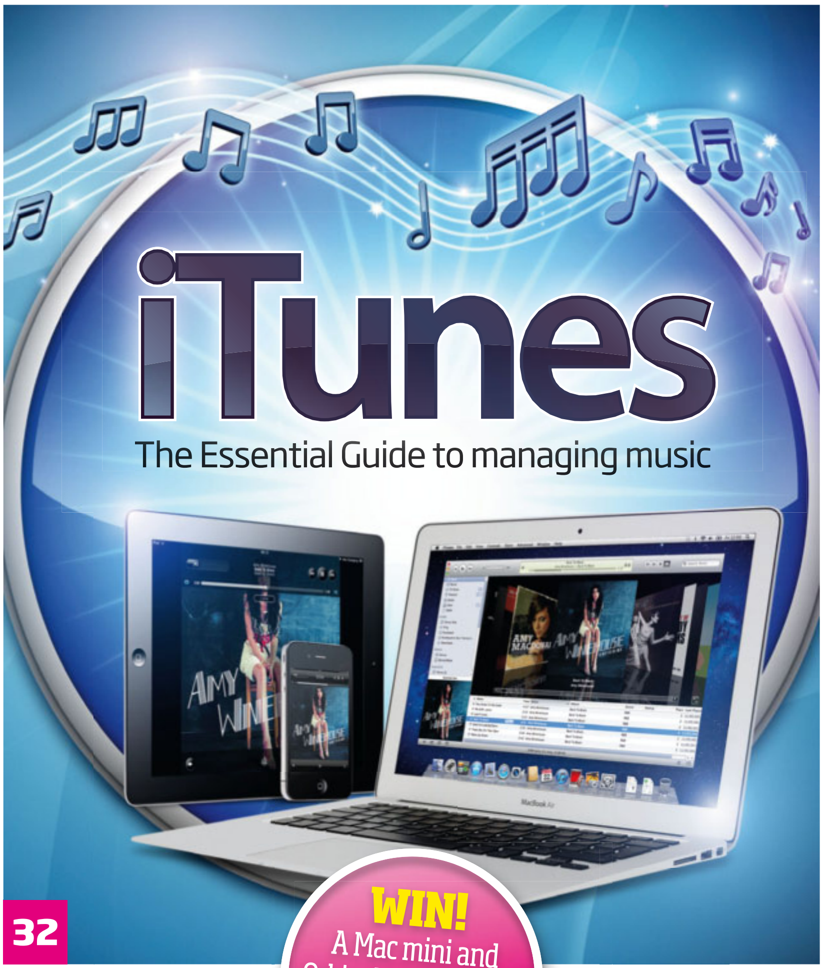

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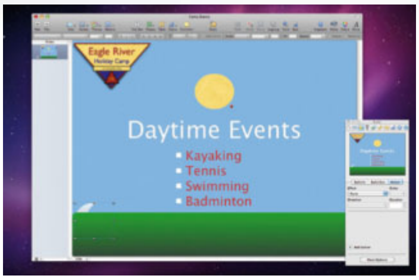
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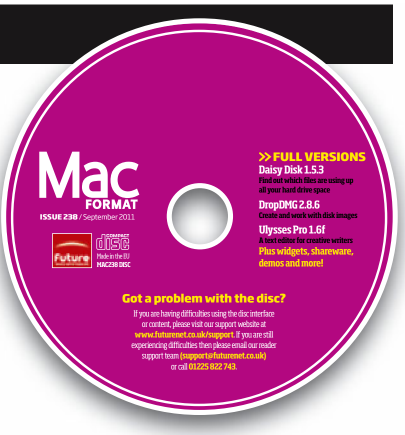
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DropDMG 2.8.6
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Plus widgets, shareware, demos and more!
Got a problem with the disc?

All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
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Get more from the new OS X
84 PAGES OF ADVICE!
Share snaps with iPhoto
New iMovie tips & tricks
Advanced searching
THE LATEST KIT REVIEWED
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+ How to manage music across your Apple kit!
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Like *MacFormat*? Then you'll love our brand new iPad app *100 tricks & tips for iPad 2*. **Search the App Store for it now!**

100 tricks & tips for iPad 2
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Start up

New Macs roar

Apple unveils new MacBook Airs and Mac minis in tandem with Lion operating system

SEE OUR REVIEWS
Turn to page 94 for Air and mini reviews

What's more exciting than introducing the world's most modern operating system? Answer: launching new computers to run them on. And so Apple twinned its introduction of Lion (see page 84) with new MacBook Air models, Mac minis and an all-new Thunderbolt-enabled display.

With Lion inside, the new Macs purr. And while Apple has dumped the white plastic MacBook from its range (with the exception of its educational channels), it seems the company is sowing seeds for a 22nd quarter of above-average-PC-industry growth. Shifting 3.95 million units, Apple sold the most Macs it has ever sold in a June quarter (see page 9).

Apple's Mac sales seem resistant to iPad cannibalisation. Apple Chief Operating Officer, Tim Cook, said: "In terms of cannibalisation, we do believe that some customers chose to purchase an iPad instead of the new Mac during the quarter, but we also believe that even more customers chose to purchase an iPad over a Windows PC. And as I've said before, there's a lot more of the Windows PC business to cannibalise than the Mac."

The new Macs include Intel Sandy Bridge processors, Thunderbolt connections, FaceTime cameras and more. The new monitor – built for laptops with its integrated MagSafe charger – carries its own camera, three USB ports, a single Gigabit Ethernet, a single FireWire 800 port and a speaker system. It also features an ambient light sensor that automatically adjusts display brightness based on lighting conditions.

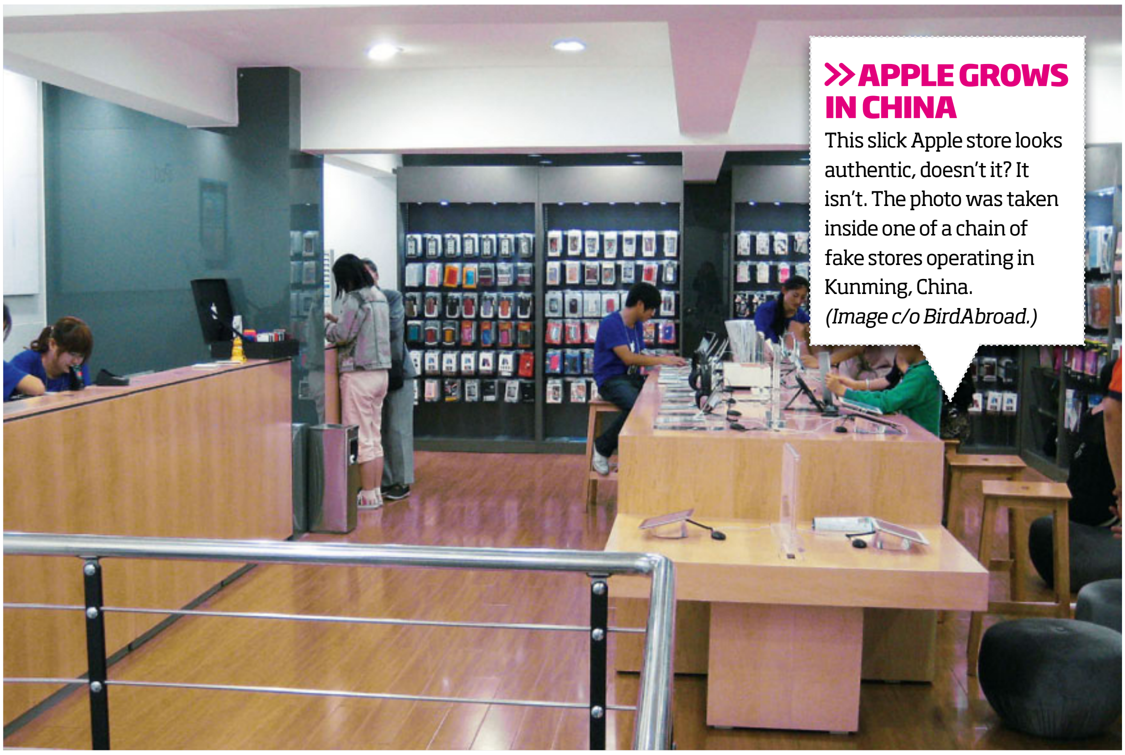
>> MORE NEWS
For even more on the Mac, iPod and iPhone, visit www.macformat.co.uk

Available in 11- or 13-inch models (from £849 and £1,099, respectively), the latest MacBook Airs also gain ambient light sensors; the keyboards light up when you're in darkness. These notebooks use solid-state storage: available capacities run between 64GB and 256GB. Battery life is claimed to be seven hours (11-inch) and five hours (13-inch).

The larger model weighs just 2.96 pounds, while the smaller weighs 2.38 pounds. Processor speeds vary from 1.6GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 with 3MB shared L3 cache, to a dual-core 1.8GHz Intel Core i7 with 4MB shared L3 cache. The latter is only available as a build-to-order option through Apple's online store.

The new Mac mini loses its SuperDrive, but it gains raw power.

APPLE IN PICTURES / Phony Apple



APPLE GROWS IN CHINA

This slick Apple store looks authentic, doesn't it? It isn't. The photo was taken inside one of a chain of fake stores operating in Kunming, China. *(Image c/o BirdAbroad.)*

There's a Thunderbolt connection, two USB ports, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth inside, but no optical drive in these new Macs. Apple claims the new Macs run at 2.5 times the performance of the previous models.

Apple is moving to a connected-everywhere vision for all its platforms. As part of this strategy, it will introduce its iCloud suite of services this autumn, enabling easy online backup and access to most of your data from any supporting device. This also means the optical drive is on the way out across the range, underlining Apple's move to drop the optical drive from inside its Mac mini (from £529).

"Designed without an optical disc drive, the Mac mini can access the optical drives on other PCs and Macs, and works with the MacBook Air SuperDrive."

The new Mac mini is all about miniaturisation. It features a 1.4-inch-thin seamless unibody enclosure carved from a single, solid block of aluminium. There's no separate power adaptor; instead that component's built-in. Abandoning the optical drive apparently allowed Apple to use more powerful processors and graphics inside a smaller space: Intel Core i5 or Intel Core i7 processors, AMD Radeon HD 6630M discrete graphics. A quad-core Intel Core i7 powered server configuration is also available. The Mac mini offers FireWire, Ethernet, HDMI, four USB, an SDXC slot and a single Thunderbolt port. This is a green machine – when idle it consumes under 13 watts of power.

Buoyed by the iPad/iPhone/iPod touch halo, Apple's Mac sales are on a serious roll. MacBook shipments are expected to reach at least 15 million in 2012, by which time Apple will account for 25-30% of the global notebook market with a grand total of 75 million devices shipped.

The impact is beginning to be felt among enterprise users as well. For example, the UK's first commercial broadcaster, ITV, has announced plans to replace its Windows PCs with Macs across the next few years. The first Macs will be rolled out to ITV staff over the next 18 months, while the broadcaster also plans to begin the use of web-based Google apps. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

1 billion

Number of smartphones sold in 2016 (Juniper Research)

"The Mac App Store blimp is gliding overhead!"

Rob Mead-Green tries to re-ignite his Lion high.

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs,
www.apple.com
"I think it's hogwash."
Apple CEO responds to rumour that company board are looking for a new chief executive.

Tim Cook,
www.apple.com
"We were still selling every unit we could make during the quarter."
Apple COO says customers across the world are snapping up iPads as fast as they are being made.

Eric Schmidt,
www.google.com
"They are not responding with innovation, they're responding with lawsuits."
Google executive slams Apple's legal moves, claiming it is inspired by jealousy and a lack of innovation in its iPhone.

Daniel Ashdown,
www.juniperresearch.com
"Given Apple's latest results (in its third quarter) there doesn't appear to be a need to diversify its product range at this time."
UK analyst says there's no real need to introduce the fabled 'iPhone nano' given the current market.

John MacFarlane,
www.sonos.com
"AirPlay doesn't work very well."
Sonos CEO has Apple in his sights after revealing the company's new PLAY:3 streaming speaker.

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Who loves OS X Lion!

Rob Mead-Green

Okay everybody, repeat after me. "L-I-O-N. Lion! Mexican Wave! Awesome!" We're on stage at Wembley Stadium and thousands of Mac users have gathered for the latest OS X upgrade. The atmosphere's electric, everyone's waving their MacBook Airs in the, erm, air, and the Mac App Store blimp is gliding overhead spitting out downloads to everyone who's bought a ticket. It's the biggest thing to happen to the Mac since Snow Leopard! Apple OSes rock!

That'll teach me to eat cheese before bed.

Daft dreams aside, what is it about an upgrade to the Mac operating system that gets us so excited? Of course, there's the hype that emanates from Cupertino; the endless stream of rumours and speculation from the internet; the giddy rise in fever pitch as the launch date gets near – made worse this time because Apple's only word on the date was 'sometime in July'.

Even the launch day was filled with anticipation: what time will it be available? How long will the download take? What do I do if it arrives over lunch? The sense of excitement was so intense that firing Lion up for the first time was actually a tiny bit of a disappointment. How could it not be?

> *"Even the launch day was filled with anticipation: what time will it be available? How long will the download take?"*

But here we are, just a few weeks later. Lion's installed on most of the machines in the office and on our personal Macs too. We've 'ooh-ed' over Mission Control and 'aah-ed' over LaunchPad. We've grumbled about the lack of colour in the *Finder* and the stupid 'All My Files' folder option. We still can't quite work out whether we love or loathe *Mail*. Trying to convey the sense of wonder over the pretty, exciting bits is met with a mixture of boredom and pity from our partners. A very slight low inevitably sets in.

But wait… what's that in the distance? It is hope. Hope that the next version of the Mac OS will be along any year now. What new things will Apple come up with to surprise and delight us? Yes, the fever is starting to build again already… and the fridge is full of fresh cheese. ●

Rob Mead-Green is working out how many Lion virtual machines he can run at once on a single Mac. Because that's the way he rolls.

MacBook Air

OS X Lion isn't unanimously adored, but critics haven't failed to recognise its innovations.

>> APPLE OS

Mixed response to Lion launch

From digital downloads to natural scrolling

Apple's latest operating system, OS X Lion, is available now. Over a million Mac users downloaded the £21 OS on day one, reflecting the company's major investments in internet infrastructure. The Mac App Store took the strain, and while some users complained of long waits for the 3.49GB software to download, this was down to their ISPs, and not Apple's own systems.

"Lion is the best version of OS X yet, and we're thrilled that users around the world can download it, starting today," said Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing.

The software's introduction was remarkably free of bugs, though some noted problems with external displays when used in full-screen mode. Most users saw their system speed improve, though many found Apple's 'Natural Scrolling' feature to be too… unnatural.

Given Adobe's historical support for Apple OS upgrades, there have been problems with Flash on Lion. These include high fan speeds as the processor (not the GPU) is forced to carry the load of Flash computation. Adobe products don't support the Restore feature of Lion, Auto-Save, Versioning or some gestures, and *Photoshop CS2* isn't supported.

Despite these niggles, critics welcomed the OS. "Lion is very different. It's a big leap, and gives the Mac a much more modern look and feel for a world of tablets and smartphones. If you are willing to adjust, it's the best computer OS out there," said Walt Mossberg at the *Wall Street Journal*.

"Apple has taken a hatchet to decades of conventional wisdom about desktop operating systems," wrote John Siracusa.

Security experts also praised the much-improved security of the operating system, which delivers state-of-the-art protection. "Those guys are seriously raising the bar, but no matter how high the bar is, somebody is going to get over it," warned Securosis CEO, Rich Mogull.

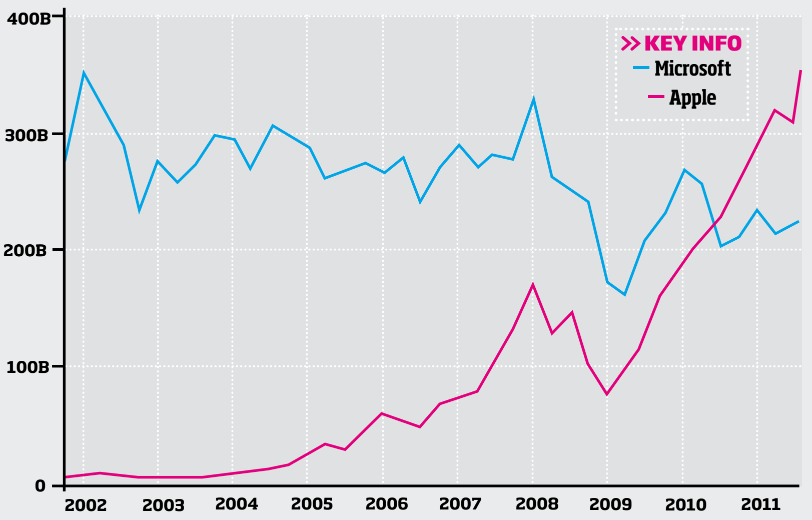
Apple has invited Mac users who don't enjoy decent broadband access at home, work or school to download Lion at Apple retail stores. The OS will also be sold on a £55 USB drive via Apple's online store, starting in August. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

1

Apple is now the world's biggest smartphone maker

APPLE IN NUMBERS / Apple vs Microsoft



This chart shows you the history of the Apple versus Microsoft wars, since 2002. As you can see, Apple's market cap has grown insanely fast, while Microsoft growth has completely stalled.

Source: YCharts (www.ycharts.com)

SMARTPHONE PHENOMENON

Apple's iPhone success grows

Company profits soar thanks to iOS devices

Apple has consistently grown its Mac market share for five-and-a-half years, iPad sales are astronomical and the iPhone is the world's biggest-selling smartphone.

These patterns are reflected in the company's most recent (Q3) financial results, which saw Apple return its biggest June quarter ever. Revenue reached $28.57 billion, generating net profit of $7.31 billion. Compare this with Apple's $3.25 billion profit in the same quarter last year or its $818 million profit in the same quarter of 2007, and the company's outstanding growth is clear.

APPLE IN NUMBERS

222 million

The amount of iOS devices in use worldwide

Apple sold 20.34 million iPhones in the quarter, up 142%. It sold 9.25 million iPads, up 183%. It also sold 3.95 million Macs during the quarter, up 14%. But Apple sold 7.54 million iPods, down 20% on the year-ago quarter.

"We're thrilled to deliver our best quarter ever, with revenue up 82% and profits up 125%," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "Right now, we're very focused and excited about bringing iOS 5 and iCloud to our users this fall."

China is Apple's biggest market. Sales in the Asia Pacific climbed 57% in the quarter, and seem set to grow rapidly.

"China was very key to our results," said Apple COO, Tim Cook. Sales are up six-fold over the year-ago quarter. "I think there is an incredible opportunity for Apple there," he added. ●

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Next chip not by Samsung
Apple and Samsung seem on the rocks with Apple's proprietary A5 chips set to be made by TSMC; no surprise given the intense litigation between the firms.

HOT: Apple ships a television
They say Apple will produce an iTunes-connected TV. Why would the company get into this business? These rumours persist – is there something there?

NOT: Next iPad to be 3D
A flurry of patent filings caused bloggers to speculate the next iPad may support 3D. We say the production process for the screens needs to improve for mass market.

NOT: Apple acquires Nuance
Apple is thought to be developing voice systems and may acquire voice technology provider, Nuance, to do so. We don't think it would pass regulatory scrutiny.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Perhaps you've caught one of the regular appearances of Apple kit on ABC series, *Modern Family*, which screens on various UK channels. Here's Phil, playing on his iPad as his family ignore each other.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Spectacular Spotify?

Susie Ochs

Spotify finally landed on US shores, but the jaw-dropping nature of this free cloud jukebox hasn't dropped quite as many jaws as I thought it would. I'm having fun getting to know the slick Mac client, tweaking the perfect playlist, and inviting my Facebook friends to kick in a jam or two. But the answer I'm getting a lot is, "Why do I need Spotify too?"

See, we've been hearing our European pals rave about Spotify for a few years now, but while we were waiting, similar services rushed to fill the void. The closest is Rdio (which is almost identical, minus the Mac client) but streaming services Rhapsody and Pandora remain popular too. New player Turntable.fm (which started out global but quickly went US only for licencing reasons) is strictly social and occurs in real time – users take turns spinning single songs for a room full of friends, whose cartoony avatars dance along.

With all these options it's not surprising I'm having a little trouble coaxing some of my friends to join me on Spotify. Out of some 400-odd Facebook friends, only 25 are Spotify users, but I think they'll jump in once invitations for the free service are more plentiful, or I can convince them it's worth $5 (about £3) per month.

"Users take turns spinning single songs for a room full of friends, whose cartoony avatars dance along"

The weirder thing is, where is Apple in all this? Ping is a joke of a social music solution, more about dully reporting what you bought rather than letting your friends listen to your favourite albums and albums for themselves. iTunes isn't the only place we buy music, although I still play a ton of music through it, so it's frustrating that Ping won't tell my friends what I've been listening to. Ping doesn't have a playlist feature, suggest similar artists, or integrate with social networking sites in a meaningful way. But maybe now that Apple convinced the four major US record labels to sign off on iCloud, a social streaming solution will hit the dance floor soon after. I just hope my friends and I all wind up at the same party. ●

This month Susie Ochs, Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*, is mainly taking time out to covet the MacBook Air while snowboarding.

>> SMARTPHONE SHOWDOWN

Apple fights the Android wars

Apple's success sparks concern in competition

Android handset developers are concerned following Apple winning a major victory in its iPhone patent lawsuit against manufacturer, HTC. In a ruling delivered on 15 July, the US International Trade Commission (ITC) has declared HTC to have violated two Apple patents. Why is this so important? Because if HTC fails to win an appeal against this decision then that company could be prevented from selling its Android smartphones in the US, and could also be forced to begin paying Apple a royalty for licencing the patents for use within its own devices. The effect? This will mean the Android OS isn't free anymore.

Oracle is suing Google for as much as $2 billion/year for alleged patent violations of Java patents. Microsoft meanwhile is reaching royalty agreements with a growing number of Android device makers – including HTC. Under these deals, Microsoft is collecting a licencing fee from Android handset sales.

Apple is also prepared to reach detente. For example, it has reached a settlement with Nokia under which it will pay them a fee and royalties for use of patented technologies.

Apple, Microsoft, RIM and others are annoyed that Google's Android OS is growing fast because it is made available for free – and may use other people's technologies.

Apple COO, Tim Cook, remarked, "We love competition. We think it's great for us and for everyone. But we want people to invent their own stuff and we're going to make sure that we defend our portfolio perfectly." ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

100PiB

Estimated data downloaded in first month of Lion

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

In the days before computers and ADVFN-style services, prices were printed in newspapers the next day. There was a near real-time price reporting system called the ticker tape. Companies still have ticker – Apple's is AAPL. The ticker would print AAPL 50K 360 ^ 1, which meant Apple traded 50,000 shares at $360 up $1.

'Don't fight the tape,' means if the price is going in a direction, don't argue with it, just let it run.

Apple is running. It has broken through the top of the channel that threatened to see it fall back to earth, and once more is heading to the moon.

Why? The answer is because Apple and investors are happy to pay an awesome price. Well, I'm not going to fight the tape.

May all investors' dreams come true. From the look of the technical, Apple could be at $400 in no time (after writing this article the price jumped $25 on Q3 results). You have to bow down to a bubble.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> ADOBE ONLINE

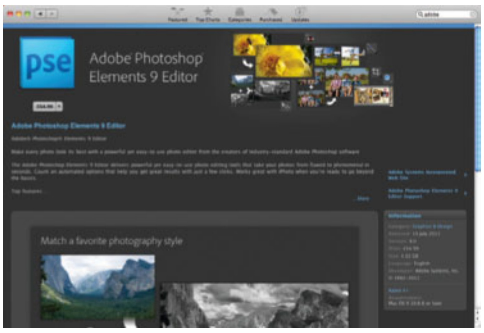
Adobe joins App Store

Photoshop spin-off app now available via Apple

Adobe has taken its first tentative steps into the Mac App Store, by making *Photoshop Elements 9 Editor* available via Apple's online software selling service. The company says it hopes *iPhoto* users will turn to its solution for more advanced image editing, offering everything you'd expect from the application.

Available tools include those used for image editing, with Guided Edits to help users achieve basic effects. There's also uncluttering and image repair tools, such as Spot Healing or Pop Art for creating retro-style images. There's also a feature that allows *Elements 9* users to gather the best facial expressions or body language from several group shots to create the perfect group photo.

The software also features such commonly used photo fixes as teeth whitening, image tinting and more. The Adobe Photomerge Style Match tool will analyse the stylistic characteristics of any photo, such as contrast or colour tone, and automatically apply them to another photo.


pse
Adobe Photoshop Elements 9 Editor
Match a favorite photography style

Adobe are hoping to lure iPhoto users their way...

Commenting on the release, Winston Hendrickson, Vice President of Digital Imaging Products at Adobe said: "*Photoshop* helped pioneer creativity on the Mac, so it's appropriate that this special edition of *Photoshop Elements* is Adobe's entry into the Mac App Store."

The 1.02GB download requires Mac OS X 10.6.6 and costs £55. Adobe recently brought some of its *Photoshop* tools to iOS with a series of iPad apps: *Photoshop Express Eazel*, *Color Lava* and *Nav* apps. ●

>> AWESOME APP FIGURES

15 billion and counting

iPhone App Store charts unbelievable figures

Apple's decision to enable app creation on iOS devices has proved truly fortuitous: over 15 billion apps have been downloaded since the App Store began, Apple announced in July.

"In just three years, the revolutionary App Store has grown to become the most exciting and successful software marketplace the world has ever seen," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing.

It almost never happened. Apple CEO Steve Jobs told developers at WWDC 2007 that they would be creating web apps for iPhones. "Our innovative approach, using Web 2.0-based standards, lets developers create amazing new applications while keeping the iPhone secure and reliable." In response to developer feedback, Apple changed its mind and launched the iPhone App Store in July 2008. Since then, Apple has paid developers over $2.5 billion.

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

$76.2bn

Apple's cash hoard - higher than the balance of the US govt

App sales are booming. Apple sold 7 billion apps between January 2010 and January 2011. It has taken just six months to shift the next five billion apps, as download rates head toward a billion per month.

The store dominates the app ecosystem with over 425,000 apps, including 100,000 for the iPad.

That's far more than you'll find for sale at any other app store, though Google recently claimed that over 4.5 billion apps have been downloaded from the Android Market. ●

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Win! A Mac mini and two Orbicule applications!

Safeguard your Mac and your house with Orbicule software

How's this for a tech nightmare. You take your MacBook on holiday and it gets stolen from your hotel room. Then when you get home, you find you've been burgled and your iMac has gone. But if you installed Orbicule's excellent security applications *Witness* and *Undercover*, you've an excellent chance of getting them back.

Orbicule Undercover runs invisibly in the background, regularly contacting Orbicule's server. If your Mac is flagged as stolen, *Undercover* reports its location, photographs the thief via the webcam and takes desktop screenshots, all of which can be retrieved online. *Witness* turns your Mac into a motion-detecting security camera. If an intruder gets into your home, it takes photographs and videos which can be viewed using the free iOS app or on the *Witness* website.

Thanks to Orbicule, we have a bundle of excellent prizes to give away. One lucky winner gets a Mac mini and copies of *Orbicule Undercover* and *Orbicule Witness*; 10 runners-up win *Undercover* and *Witness*.

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of these superb prizes, answer this simple question:

Orbicule's *Undercover* and *Witness* applications are designed to defeat which type of miscreants?

A) Thieves
B) Spammers
C) Hackers

For more information on Orbicule software, go to **www.orbicule.com**.

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text ORB, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
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- Competition closes on 13 September 2011.

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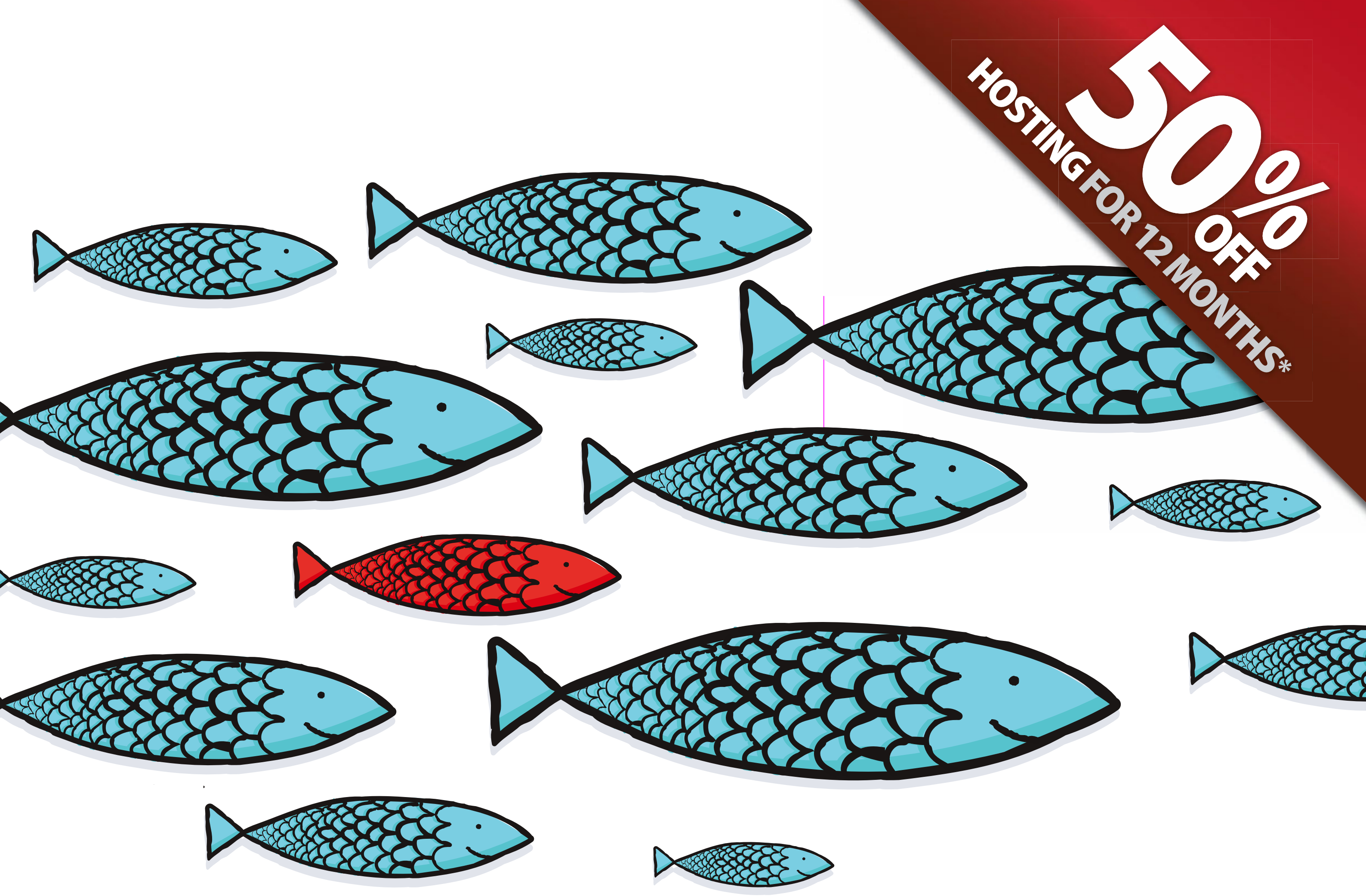

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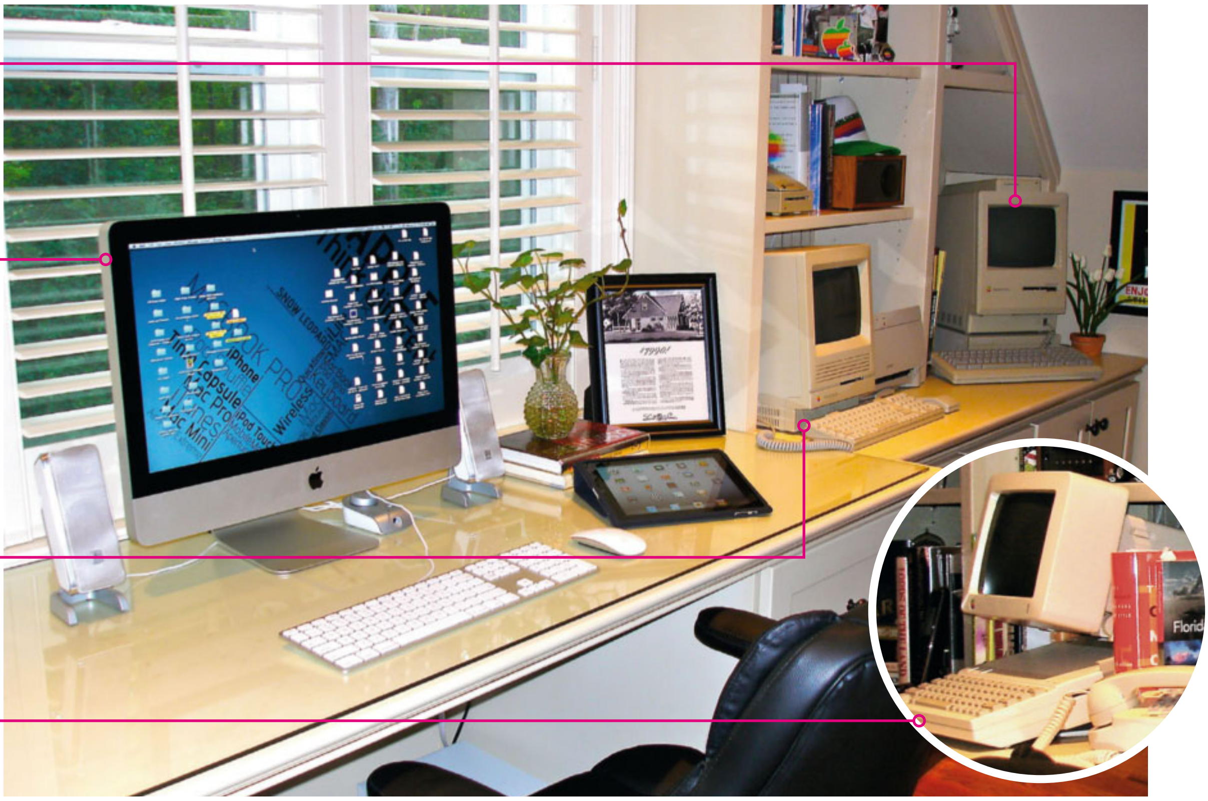
Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>>CONTACT US
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **rob.mead-green@futurenet.com**



Mac Plus
This classic Mac dates from 1986, runs OS X 6.07 and has a whopping 1,024MB of RAM. Jealous?

iMac 21.5-inch
Mark uses his iMac every day in his job as a writer. It's a 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 4GB of RAM.

Mac SE/30
This 1989 all-in-one runs OS X 7.5 and has 16MB of RAM. It's connected to a 1993 Apple II Stylewriter.

Apple IIc
Originally made in 1984, Mark's Apple IIc is still used today – for playing games on its monochrome screen.

>>PROFILE

Name: Mark Mathosian
Occupation: Freelancer writer and photographer
Been using a Mac for: 25 years
Favourite hardware: iMac, iPad and his vintage Macs
Favourite software: Pages, iPhoto, iTunes and Adobe Photoshop Elements

What do earthworms, Bernie Madoff and Steve 'Woz' Wozniak have in common? They've all featured in the eventful life of Mark Mathosian – a financial fraud investigator turned private eye turned freelance writer and photographer, who just so happens to have also played a small part in the 80s computer boom.

"I consider myself a lifelong Apple fan and buy new products as they are introduced," Mathosian says. "But while I love my Macs, iPads and iPods, the big prize goes to Steve 'Woz' Wozniak and the Apple IIe.

"The Apple IIe was the third model of the Apple II series and one of the best-selling Apple computers before the Mac went on sale… The number of programs available for the II series was phenomenal." Mark knows of what he speaks – he began using computers in the early 80s, starting with a Sanyo MBC-1150, before moving on to various PCs and eventually the Mac, turning his hobby into a career as freelance writer by producing 'How To' books as well as magazine and newspaper articles.

> *"The Apple IIe was the third model of the series and one of the best-selling computers before the Mac"*

It also partly explains why Mark has a framed photo of Apple co-founder Steve 'Woz' Wozniak on his desk:

"I purchased an early version of an Apple desktop Bus Mouse from **www.signedbywoz.com**. All items come with a certificate of authenticity. Once my mouse arrived I downloaded an image of 'Woz' from the internet and then had the whole thing custom-framed at a local art store."

It's the iMac next to it that gets most of Mark's attention, as he typically spends up to 12 hours a day writing articles in *Pages*, editing pictures in *iPhoto* or enjoying music in *iTunes*. He's currently writing a book on avoiding investment scams. Some of his expertise was picked up during his time as an investigator for the Florida Office of Financial Regulation. There he helped smash several Ponzi schemes including the infamous 'worm farm scam', where investors were persuaded to buy and sell earthworms with the expectation that it would one day make them rich. You can catch Mark in action in the BBC documentary *The Madoff Hustle* on YouTube, over at **http://youtu.be/-M3sHrVOddw**. ●

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At last real high-fidelity sound from
a portable iPod speaker system.

Free your music:
www.arcam.co.uk

Words: Graham Barlow

I use my Mac for being a rugby star!

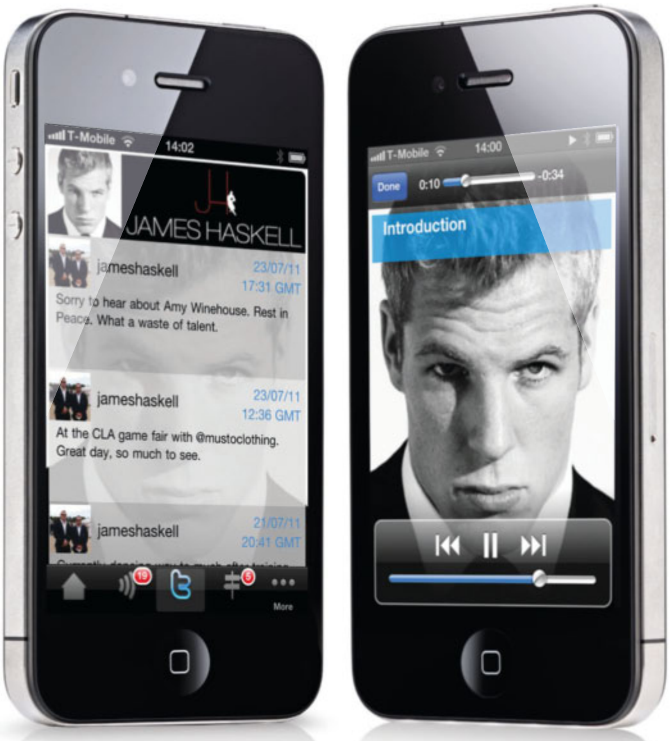
MacFormat meets Mac fanatic and England and International rugby player James Haskell

>>PROFILE

Name: James Haskell
Occupation: Professional rugby player
Website: www.jameshaskell.com
Macs owned: MacBook Pro, MacBook Air

MacFormat: What first got you into rugby?

James Haskell: When I was about five years old my mum signed me up for a local rugby club's under-sevens team in Maidenhead. You couldn't start until you were six, but she lied about my age to get me in! That got me involved. Like most children I was a bit hyperactive, driving everyone mad. Rugby got me out of the house, and it also got the approval of my father because it meant he could take me along and have beer on a Sunday!



T-Mobile 14:02

JAMES HASKELL

jameshaskell 23/07/11 17:31 GMT
Sorry to hear about Amy Winehouse. Rest in Peace. What a waste of talent.

jameshaskell 23/07/11 12:36 GMT
At the CLA game fair with @mustoclothing. Great day, so much to see.

jameshaskell 21/07/11 20:41 GMT

MF: Who is your biggest inspiration?

JH: I'd say it's transitioned over the last few years. Currently it has to be Richard McCaw, an amazing New Zealand player who plays in a similar position to me. Lawrence Dallaglio was a big inspiration when I was growing up, as well as guys like Muhammad Ali and Lance Armstrong, both of whom are very mentally strong, very successful at sport and let their actions do the talking.

MF: What is it about Macs that you like so much?

JH: It's a very difficult thing to describe. When you see something impressive and you think 'I'd love my computer to be able to do this', lo and behold you can with a Mac! I first got introduced to Macs when I was about 18 during an England under-19s tour. One of the boys had a 13-inch PowerBook. I loved it; it was just so intuitive and easy to use that I never went back to a PC – in fact I've never touched one again!

MF: What do you mainly use your Mac for?

JH: I use my MacBook Pro for everything. It never leaves my side, except when I take my iPad out to business meetings instead. I use my Mac for writing blogs, emails, and for video editing using *iMovie*. I'll record videos for my app (available through *iTunes* under James Haskell), produce podcasts, or sort through photos. As a rugby player I have a very privileged life, which I always try to keep track of using my camera, plus I use *iChat*, *FaceTime* and *Skype* with friends (I have been living abroad for the last two years). It's also my first stop for internet and entertainment. Being in training camps or away games, we have a lot of downtime and get through a lot of movies.

Keep up with everything James Haskell using his app, available on the App Store.

MF: What are your all-time favourite Mac apps?

JH: The whole of *iLife '11* is pretty much my go-to for most of my work. I use *Office* on my MacBook Pro for word processing, but *Pages* on my iPad is what I use to write content when out and about. The *Twitter* app is something that gets a lot of use. I think it's a great way to interact with rugby fans and show a different side to your personality.

MF: So tell us, what's next for James Haskell?

JH: I am currently in camp for the Rugby World Cup. So fingers crossed, if it all goes well I could find myself out in New Zealand for the 2011 World Cup. Following that, I'm going to Japan for four months with the Ricoh Black Rams, then the Super 15 and finally back to my old club Wasps.

Be sure that whatever I do, my MacBook Pro and my copy of *MacFormat* will be by my side! ●

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Gadgets

The hottest kit on the horizon. Here's what Apple is up against

◀ iWatchz nano Clip System

From £20 **www.iwatchz.com**

What is it? iWatchz isn't the first device to turn your iPod nano into a watch, but it's certainly one of the most striking. A range of styles is available. Look out for iWatchz Carbon, black leather bands with stitching to match the colour of your iPod, Timepiece for the sophisticated look and the Swatch-like Q Collection silicon bands. All boast a very high build quality.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? We've seen wrist straps for the iPod nano before, but they rarely boast as much style and panache as the iWatchz range. They're perfectly suited to match your iPod, and comfortable as well as good looking.

▼ Adafruit Industries iCufflinks

$128 (around £80)

http://bit.ly/o0dV21

What is it? These machined-aluminium cufflinks are modelled on the Mac's power button. Each cufflink contains a battery and circuit board, with an LED that fades in and out with the 'breathing' pattern used on the Mac itself.

When's it due? Order online now.

Why are we excited? They're gorgeous. The first batch sold out in less than a day, but by the time you read this, they should be back in stock.

▲ AViiQ Portable Laptop Stand

£37 **www.aviiq.com**

What is it? No, it's not a doorstop, but a portable laptop stand made from 'Hylite', a composite of aluminum and polyproplene. It's big enough to support a 17-inch MacBook Pro, and folds down to little over 30cm long and 7cm wide when not in use. Rubber feet protect your notebook and desk surface, and it comes supplied with a microfibre carry bag.

When's it due? Grab it now.

Why are we excited? Notebook raisers are extremely useful, but rarely as small and light as AViiQ's Portable Laptop Stand. You can stow it in your notebook bag, yet it's sturdy and solid when unfolded.

▶ Padded Spaces Prop 'n' Go All-in-One

$60 (around £38)

www.paddedspaces.com

What is it? This handy iPad accessory is more than just a lap stand. A zip in the cushion reveals a padded compartment for you to stow your iPad when it's not in use, and there's an integrated backpack made of weather-resistant fabric.

When's it due? Out now online and in the shops this autumn.

Why are we excited? Is this three-in-one accessory a work of genius, or an unnecessary gimmick? The jury's still out on that one, but it's certainly a great piece of out-of-the-box thinking.

▲ HARMAN JBL On Air Wireless AirPlay Speaker Dock

£330 http://uk.jbl.com/on-air-uk.html

What is it? This docking station features AirPlay technology, so you can wirelessly stream your sounds from your Mac or an iPhone, iPad or iPod touch running iOS 4.2 or later over your existing Wi-Fi network. It also boasts an FM radio tuner, internet streaming broadcasts and a colour screen that displays album art, even when listening over AirPlay.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? AirPlay is an exciting but under-used technology. We'd love to see more speaker docks incorporate it. Three JBL transducers and unique HALO (Horizontal Acoustic Level Optimisation) technology give the On Air Wireless AirPlay Speaker Dock a rich, powerful sound.

▼ Crystal Acoustics MediaMatchbox

£50 www.crystalaudiovideo.com

What is it? Is this the smallest media player ever? MediaMatchbox is just over a centimetre and a half thick, and has a footprint the size of a credit card. It won't connect to your network for streaming, but you can plug in a variety of storage devices and play a huge range of audio, video and picture formats.

When's it due? Was released in July.

Why are we excited? If you've a hard drive packed with movies, music and photos you want to enjoy on your living room television, MediaMatchbox could be exactly what you're looking for. It's cheap, versatile and very, very small.

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Feedback

>> CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address: **macformat@futurenet.com**

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Lion in the clouds

A few weeks ago I received notification from Apple that my MobileMe account will be extended for another 12 months, free of charge (very generous of them) before it disappears into cyberspace, never to be seen again. But, the thing is, I like my MobileMe.

I have a .mac email account independent of my ISP. I can sync my diaries, calendars and mail on iPod, iPhone and iPad, and I can share my favourite photos with family and friends on my gallery. Steve Jobs thinks this was not Apple's finest hour, and that I shall be much happier with my head in the iCloud. Apple has spent the last 20 years creating the most user-friendly operating system on some of the most beautifully designed hardware in the business. But compared with its apparently unsuccessful MobileMe project, the download-only launch of Lion is not merely 'not their finest hour', but their worst ever.

iCloud
iCloud
What is iCloud?
Built right into your apps.
Watch the keynote video.

We're waiting for the launch of iCloud with as much excitement as you are!

Apple needs to get its head out of the clouds, and realise that many of its loyal customers have their feet firmly planted on the ground, tethered by copper-wire broadband to pedestrian download speeds.

Before Apple finally moves into its brand-new curved glass Cupertino doughnut, and looks out on its beautiful Apricot orchard, it might reflect on the fact Apricot is a defunct brand, which once upon a time displayed great design and creativity, just like Apple, but lost its way. Any aeroplane pilot will tell them that flying in cloud can be disorientating, and that the best thing to do is to drop below it to get back on course. Good advice is plentiful, good sense apparently not quite so. Let's just hope Apple realises the error of its ways before my 12-month extended MobileMe account expires.

Digby Harper

MacFormat replies: Well, we'd say don't write off Apple's iCloud before it's even launched, Digby.

>> STAR LETTER / Core i7 iMac vs 8 Core Mac Pro

Well, thanks Apple for adding the Thunderbolt interface to the new iMac. As a long-time hobbyist video editor, the choice has always been clear that the Pro is the way to go. With the introduction of the Thunderbolt port the iMac Core i7 is now surely a contender for semi-pro video editing, as previously the upgrade limitations of an all-in-one device have always nixed hard drive expansion. With FireWire the best current choice for video capture (scratch drives) we also needed to consider that the iMac has only one FireWire 800 port. There is an issue with daisy-chaining such devices if you happen to have a DV camcorder. I'm now waiting in anticipation for any test results of video editing performance with Thunderbolt external drives.

David F

MacFormat replies: With each processor upgrade the iMac has been getting so powerful that it's starting to rival the Mac Pro as perfectly suitable for most 'pro' tasks. Now it's got a Thunderbolt port we think a lot more video professionals will think of it as a serious computer. We're still waiting to get a Thunderbolt drive into the office to test – the Pegasus RAID Storage with Thunderbolt seems to have just slipped past our deadline to make it into this issue, but we hope to get it into the next. Regarding FireWire, don't forget that you can get a FireWire 800 adapter for a Thunderbolt port and connect a FireWire device in that way.

With its Thunderbolt port the new iMac is a serious contender for video.

>> STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

Not only will it offer a lot of the features that you know and love from MobileMe, but it will also be free. Perhaps most importantly, your MobileMe .me email account will still work with the new iCloud. What it won't offer is a place to publish websites you've created in *iWeb*, or photo galleries to share your photos with. Exciting new developments such as Documents in the Cloud, Photo Stream and iTunes in the Cloud have definitely got us looking forward to iCloud. Apple might want to move offices to a space age-looking doughnut (see Startup last month), but we don't think the company is heading the way of Apricot just yet.

Time Machine

In your August 2011 issue regarding backups you mention using *Time Machine* to do a full restore. One extra limitation of *Time Machine* is that once you've completed the restore, new *Time Machine* backups don't recognise the existing backed up data and it insists on doing a full backup again. When you have 1.3TB to back up on a 1.5TB drive, this is not possible!

A workaround is to set the *Time Machine* disk ID to match the new primary disk ID (assuming you've replaced your primary drive due to failure) however a program called *BatChmod* is required in order to remove the access control list (acl) from the *Time Machine* drive in order to modify the ID. Full details are available online!
Keith Holmes

iPhoto
Today (Now)
Cancel

Having problems with Time Machine? Keith Holmes' tip may help.

MacFormat replies: Sounds like a great tip Keith, thanks for the email.

Never lose a file

Chris, great article you wrote for *MacFormat* on backing up. The best I've read. But I have two questions. First, after extolling the virtues of *Carbon Copy Cloner* you yourself use *SuperDuper!* Why do your prefer it? You gave it no space in the article. Second, can you boot from *Carbon Copy Cloner* if it shares an external disk with *Time Machine* but in different partitions? Like I say, a great article. I've downloaded *SugarSync* and *CrashPlan* on the basis of it.
Mike Wallbridge

Christopher Phin replies: To be clear, the whole article was written by Ian Betteridge, not me; I just contributed one of the case studies of someone who's very careful about backing up.

I personally prefer *SuperDuper!*, largely because it feels like a more polished application; both are equally technically competent, and *Carbon Copy Cloner's* creator Mike has done a stellar job, but it just feels to me a little like an engineer's rather than a user's app. And I particularly like the scheduling controls and smart updating in the paid-for edition of *SuperDuper!* Either, though, is fine.

And yes, if you have a clone on one partition and *Time Machine* on another, you can boot from that clone – just hold the ⌥ key on the keyboard at boot to pick what drive to boot from.

Happy backing up! ●

APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

14 OCTOBER

IFS, Berlin
3-8 September
The 50th IF trade show will attract reps from across the world's consumer electronics industry, eager to show us what's new in convergence technology.

UPDATE 2011, Brighton
5-7 September
A mobile conference covering a broad range of topics. Everything from HTML5 and copywriting for mobile to full-on iOS app creation.

IBC EXHIBITION, Amsterdam
9-13 September, 2011
IBC is the leading international forum for the electronic media industry, offering everything across the content value chain for the coming year.

MACFORMAT issue 239
14 September
Get your eyes and mind around the latest news, information, features and reviews.

APPS WORLD London
29-30 November
After visiting Africa and Asia in 2011, this international Apps World series comes to London. Showcasing across multiple platforms, there are areas for developers, mobile operators and TV apps to show off their work. Attendees can expect keynote speeches and advice from the great and the good of this booming business.

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:
What's your favourite feature of OS X Lion?

@Dave_Piper
"My fave feature is the Auto Save! Never lose another document. Coupled with Time Machine, it's the killer feature."

@neiltaylormade
"Has to be reverse scrolling - it just makes sense! Going back to Windows at work is a pain though, I keep scrolling the wrong way!"

@danielrmitchell
"Mission Control with full-screen apps. This integration makes organising open apps easier to find and open quickly."

@TheTechBox
"Mail 5 - love the interface and some of the new features it boasts."

@editkick
"Love Mission Control! Been using corners for years; seems like just the upgrade we need. Gestures will take time to learn though."

@craigos_stone
"Full-screen apps without a doubt - plus the ability to use gestures to glide from one to another effortlessly!"

@alimack
"Would be Versions and AirDrop, but the latter doesn't work on my hardware and no support in Office 2011 for Versions!"

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

Mac

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AccountEdge has long been the best and most versatile business accounting package available for the Mac.

- Jeffery Battersby, Macworld

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MacFormat presents

The most awesome Mac EVER!

AS VOTED FOR BY YOU!

Words: Laurence Cable **Photography:** Courtesy of Apple **Illustration:** Mike@ MagicTorch

Team MacFormat couldn't decide on their favourite ever Mac, so we put it to you, our wonderful readers. And boy did a lot of you respond! Read on to see which Macs you voted into the top 10… »

PowerBook G4 (Titanium)

>>FEEDBACK

"A total change in laptop design… I felt like a rock star owning one back then."

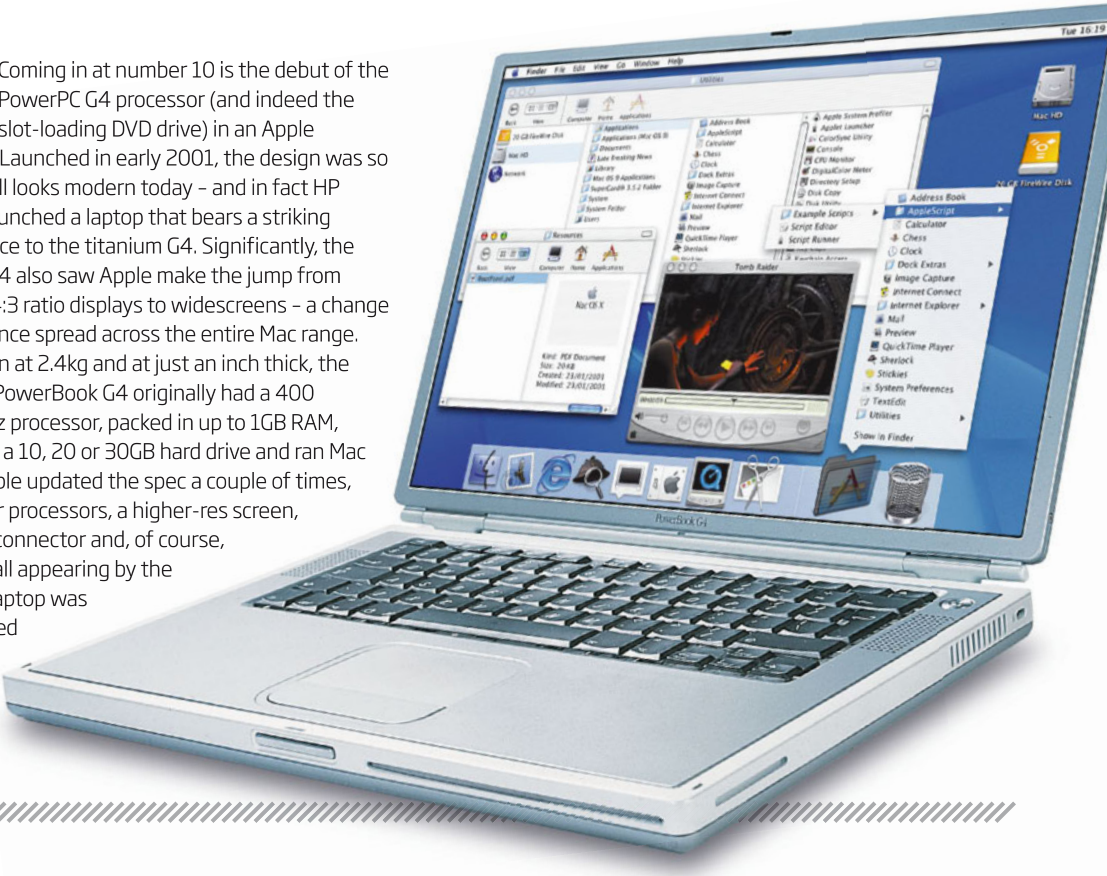
"Such a desirable piece of kit, which I still own and still use, but when it first came out the idea of having a portable 17-inch screen for design purposes was simply glorious."

"The PowerBook G4 (Titanium), as well as being stunning in design and power, freed me from the desk, from the monstrous monitors and the heavy boxes."

>>PERCENTAGE

3.44% of the reader vote

10 Coming in at number 10 is the debut of the PowerPC G4 processor (and indeed the slot-loading DVD drive) in an Apple notebook. Launched in early 2001, the design was so good, it still looks modern today – and in fact HP recently launched a laptop that bears a striking resemblance to the titanium G4. Significantly, the titanium G4 also saw Apple make the jump from standard 4:3 ratio displays to widescreens – a change that has since spread across the entire Mac range. Weighing in at 2.4kg and at just an inch thick, the 15.2-inch PowerBook G4 originally had a 400 or 500MHz processor, packed in up to 1GB RAM, came with a 10, 20 or 30GB hard drive and ran Mac OS 9.1. Apple updated the spec a couple of times, with faster processors, a higher-res screen, DVI video connector and, of course, Mac OS X all appearing by the time this laptop was discontinued in 2003.



12" PowerBook G4 (Aluminium)

>>FEEDBACK

"Mind blowing at the time. Tiny, full-featured, power user laptop. Great keyboard, great screen. A classic."

"For Apple road warriors, this was the one to have! Built like a tank, fantastic performance, great screen graphics, superb keyboard. Only missing an illuminated keyboard, but otherwise a perfect machine."

>>PERCENTAGE

3.61% of the reader vote

9 If you want to see just how beautiful small can be, this is it. The only other 12-inch Apple notebook available at the time of its 2003 launch was the iBook, which ran on the older PowerPC G3 processor. The Aluminium G4 brought far greater power and was smaller than the iBook.

The launch model had an 867MHz processor, up to 60GB of storage and unofficially allowed you to max out its RAM to over a gigabyte. Overall, the importance of wireless connectivity rocketed with the launch of this machine. While it still had a traditional 56K modem, it came with built-in Bluetooth and the option of a high-speed AirPort Extreme Wi-Fi card, both of which its predecessors lacked.

But specs aside, this machine packed a lot of power into a tiny package. Not until the MacBook Air did Apple get this combination so right again.

Mac Pro

>> FEEDBACK

"Powerful and expandable, no Mac runs quite like it."

"Simply put, this is an amazingly capable machine, throw anything at it and it just delivers in every aspect. Ooodles of power, options and configurability make this the best Mac format ever."

"I have a 12-core/24-thread machine and it's a real monster. Until the next Mac Pro of course…"

>> PERCENTAGE

3.77% of the reader vote

8

This beast of a machine has an astonishing amount of power. While they've never been cheap, you get what you pay for, and the Mac Pro is mindblowing. With processor speeds breaking the 3.3GHz mark on the newest models, there's power in abundance here, packaged in a case that looks on the outside like the Power Mac G5, but has different innards (and a quieter cooling system).

If you get the chance, pop the side panel off a Mac Pro and marvel at the beauty of the engineering. Want to add or remove drives? Simply slide them in or out. More RAM? Just slip the processor tray out and pop in your memory – up to 64GB in the latest version.

With Apple making it trickier to access and upgrade the components of many of its machines, the Pro remains hugely expandable. Inside the newest models are four PCI Express slots, an optional RAID card, four SATA drive bays, two optical drive positions and up to eight RAM slots. Wow.

Best of the rest

The Macs that just missed a Top 10 place…

Even if these Macs didn't make the Top 10, each one is great in its own right. Here, we count down the models that, based on your votes, ranked from 25 to 11.

Power Macintosh G3 (Blue & White)

The first pro-level Mac to go colourful, the blue-and-white G3 also introduced FireWire and had those handy carry handles on all four corners.

PowerBook Duo

Tied with the aformentioned G3 in the poll, this line of 90s notebooks could be docked to become a desktop machine.

eMac

The e stood for 'education', but this 17-inch G4 was a hit with home users too, thanks to its affordable pricetag.

iBook G3 (Clamshell)

More than a year after the colourful iMac hit stores, its portable sibling followed, complete with a carry handle!

Macintosh PowerBook 100

Launched in late 1991, this was the first properly portable Mac. It weighed 2.3kg – lighter than a modern-day 15-inch MacBook Pro!

PowerBook G3

This range of sleek notebooks were popular with business users, thanks to their powerful processors.

Twentieth Anniversary Macintosh

Rarer than rare, these expensive limited-edition Macs provided a glimpse of the future when they were released in 1997.

Black MacBook

Having not made a black portable since discontinuing the G3 notebooks, these Intel machines turned out to be the last all-black machines Apple made.

Power Mac G4 (Quicksilver)

The second generation of Quicksilvers became the first Mac to smash through the 1GHz speed barrier, and we've never looked back…

Power Mac G5

The new G5 processor coincided with a new case design, which, on the outside, is essentially the same eight years on.

Macintosh LC

Bringing colour computers to the homes at affordable prices, the LC was squashed into an almost impossibly small pizza-like box.

Macintosh SE/30

Lots of power and expandability in a little early Mac cases. Incredibly, for a machine launched in the 80s, it could take up to 128MB RAM.

Macintosh Classic

OK, so its 8MHz 68000 processor was slow, but then it did sell for a fraction of what the higher spec SE/30 cost.

Macintosh 128K

1984 – where the adventure began. The original Macintosh that changed the landscape of computers forever.

Mac mini

This tiny little box came, initially, with a tiny little price. Although it's since become costlier, the mini remains an incredible feat of engineering.

>>

Help
Thu 10:49
MacBook

White MacBook

>> FEEDBACK

"Good looking, cheap enough, it wasn't black like all other laptops. And it was fast."

"It had power and style. And it was capable of being cross platform if it needed to be. But I only needed it to be a Mac."

"The best Mac is your first Mac! White MacBook was my first MacBook, and despite having cracks in the shell - it's still going strong."

>> PERCENTAGE

3.93% of the reader vote

7

Owing its shiny polycarbonate design to the iBooks of yesteryear, the white MacBook was refined over time to become the popular 13-inch unibody version that was discontinued in July.

This entry-level range was significant for several reasons – when it launched in 2006, it brought an end to Apple's use of the PowerPC processor in its notebooks (which stretched all the way back to 1995). The chip was replaced by an Intel Core Duo, and in later models, the Core 2 Duo. The white MacBooks also saw the advent of glossy screens.

The plastic case had a tendency to get scratched, so the later models were given a rubberised base, which also stopped them from sliding around. It remained hugely popular to the end, thanks partly to the fact it was the joint-cheapest Apple notebook, and also because of its 10-hour battery, making it the envy of PC laptop users everywhere!

Power Mac G4 Cube

>> FEEDBACK

"It's a funky combination of Borg and toaster. I always wanted one."

"My heart says G4 Cube every time. Overpriced, relatively low performance and questionable build quality in early models, it shouldn't even be on the list, but take a look at it! It's a true marvel of design, engineering and lust."

>> PERCENTAGE

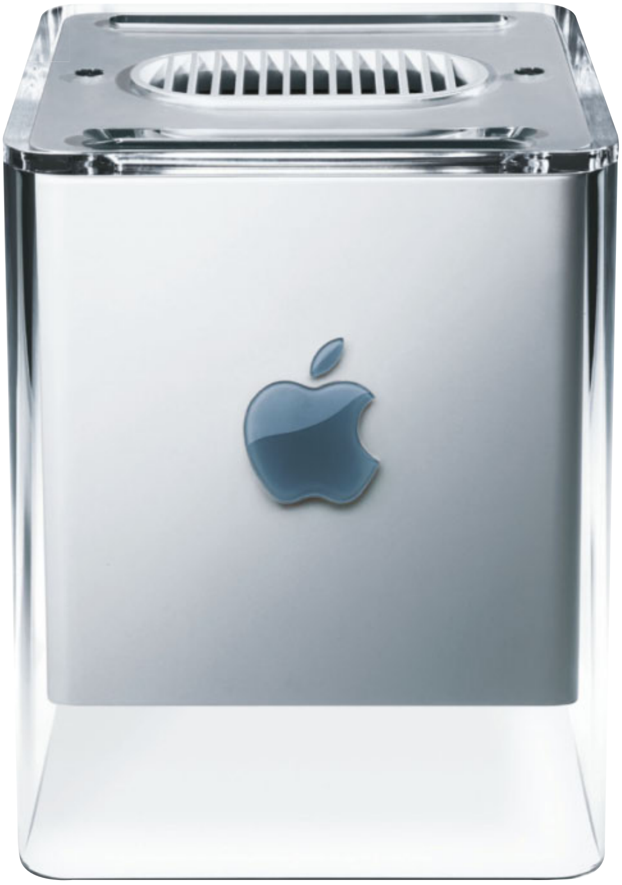
4.92% of the reader vote

6

Just look at the beauty of this thing. Suspended inside a perspex case, the G4 Cube ran pretty much silenty thanks to its convection cooling. CDs or DVDs glided vertically in and out of the drive on the top. And if you needed to get at the innards to add RAM, the whole thing slid out of the bottom, giving easy access.

In sales terms, the Cube wasn't exactly Apple's finest hour. Its price saw people opting for the cheaper, if less powerful iMac G3, or one of the similarly priced Graphite G4 towers that were around at the time.

So while it was only on sale for about a year following its release in 2000, it's one of the most iconic and collectable Macs ever made. And while it may have been confined to the history books, its legacy lives on to some extent in the Mac mini.



11" MacBook Air

FEEDBACK

"A Mac that is so thin and plays Crysis 2 deserves the award!"

"It represents everything about the future of personal computing… It's sleek. Light. Fast. Versatile. It's the Mac Apple wants everyone to have (read: 'I want to have')."

PERCENTAGE

6.89% of the reader vote

5 Something this small and light has no right to be as fast and powerful as the Air is. The lightest Mac ever, it weighs a smidgen over a kilogram and measures just 3mm at its thinnest point, making it the perfect travel companion. Even the 11-inch screen doesn't feel that small, since it packs in more pixels than you get on a 13-inch MacBook Pro!

The Air range has just been upgraded to the latest Intel Core i5 or i7 processors and once again given a backlit keyboard. But even before the upgrade to the processor, the Air absolutely flew along, thanks to its solid-state flash storage rather than a traditional hard drive.

To make the Air as light as it is, Apple shaved off every last gram possible, which means you can't upgrade the RAM or storage space once you've got the machine (the gubbins required for RAM slots and internal wiring add unnecessary weight, after all). But because they can be made to order, you can add RAM before you buy.

Oh, and did we mention that it's the cheapest Mac notebook you can get?

iMac G4 (Anglepoise)

FEEDBACK

"Brilliant and ridiculous design. Made my childhood bedroom instantly 4000% cooler."

"First Mac I ever had and the most eye-catching by far. Everyone seems to remember this Mac, even if they never had one. I think it was the first Mac to show off Apple's design ideals to a mass audience."

"The design was awesome, and still would be cool today. If Apple released an updated version of this, nothing could keep me from getting one."

PERCENTAGE

9.18% of the reader vote

4 Let's be honest, Apple was going to have to come up with something pretty special to top the impact that the colourful iMac G3 had enjoyed. And the iMac G4 certainly was very special indeed.

A dramatic combination of style and substance, it swapped the bulky CRT screen for an elegant flat panel, leading Apple CEO Steve Jobs to declare the CRT dead (though the company then launched the eMac three months later. Hmm).

The screen was supported by the revolutionary anglepoise arm, which let you adjust the height, angle and rotation of the display. Moving it around required minimal force, and yet it always stayed in position when you got it just right. The arm was attached to the top of a white dome, likened by many to a snowball.

The iMac G4 came initially with a 15-inch screen, but 17- and 20-inch options followed. It also brought the SuperDrive (a CD and DVD recorder) to the iMac for the first time.

»

iMac G3 (Coloured casing)

FEEDBACK

"I have very fond memories of getting my first ever home Mac - the original Bondi blue iMac. It was the first time I was able to get a relatively affordable Mac at home that looked so good it needed to go in my lounge! "

"First ever legacy-free computer, indestructible, terrific performance and made a great DVD player for the kids. Add on A Bugs Life and Bugdom for free and what more could you ask for?!"

"Without it we wouldn't have the Apple we have today."

PERCENTAGE

10% of the reader vote

3

Apple didn't just throw away the rule book with this machine – it pulped it. And it needed to. After the company went through a tough time in the mid 90s, co-founder Steve Jobs returned in December 1996 and set about transforming the firm into the success it is today. The G3 iMac was the crucial first step of that transformation.

Computers had always been grey boxes, with grey monitors on top. You'd type on a grey keyboard and point with a grey mouse. But no more. The iMac injected fun into computing, giving the Mac an almost cuddly feel.

It also bravely did away with much of the technology that had been part of the Mac for donkey's years; gone were the SCSI, ADB and old-style serial ports, replaced – for the first time in a Mac – by USB.

It's fair to say that without the G3 iMac, Apple wouldn't have become the success story it now is. A true watershed machine (in spite of the mouse).

13" MacBook Pro (Unibody)

MacBook Pro

FEEDBACK

"The first laptop that hit on all cylinders. Battery life, construction, size, power, finish. Just a perfect machine."

"Perfect size, weight, capacity, it's a powerhouse with the i7. It's clean and immaculately designed. There's so much thought in this computer."

"Unique design, pushing the way forward for style, which could be recognised at one glance, and not compromising on performance."

PERCENTAGE

12.46% of the reader vote

2

Is this the perfect combo of power and portability? Plenty of you thought so, propelling the stylish notebook to second place in our poll. When it launched in 2008, this was just a MacBook, despite using the same new one-piece aluminium design as the 15-inch MacBook Pro. It wasn't until mid-2009, when Apple gave it a backlit keyboard, FireWire port, SD card slot and faster processor, that it was given Pro status.

These machines also saw the advent of another feature: the Multi-Touch trackpad. While there were a few earlier MacBook Pros that had trackpads capable of doing full Multi-Touch gestures, the aluminium unibodies were the first to use the glass trackpad that's standard across the whole Apple notebook range today.

The whole design is so understated and minimalist, yet so well thought-out. It's a worthy silver medal.

And the winner is...

iMac family (Aluminium and Unibody)

1 You've decided, by a large margin, that the most awesome Mac ever is the aluminium iMac family. The latest desktop Mac won so convincingly it can be seen as a justification of Apple's habit of constantly refining its product design.

The current iMac owes its origins to its white predecessor, which crammed the whole computer into the case that housed the screen. It was marketed at the time of its 2004 launch under the slogan 'Where did the computer go?', and the design proved so popular that, conceptually at least, it remains today.

As Apple began to move away from computers with plastic casing, it released the aluminium iMacs (above right) in the summer of 2007. They came in 20- and 24-inch models, and various speed increases followed over the next two years, to the point where the top-end models were running at over 3GHz.

Then in the autumn of 2009, Apple managed to make the best even better. Housed inside a new one-piece case, the unibody iMac (above left) came with bigger screens and faster processors. And more recent refreshes have seen Apple add the lightning-fast Sandy Bridge processors and the next-gen Thunderbolt connectors.

It's a machine that pays homage to Apple past, and yet is prepared for the future. The iMac family is an awesome bit of kit and a very worthy number one.

>>FEEDBACK

"It's big. It's clever. And it doubles as a lovely room heater when you transcode video."

"It is the epitome of industrial design for the desktop segment, and lo and behold, the rest of the industry loves to take notes from it and try to imitate it."

"It's the first Mac I owned. It blows the PC out of the water, best purchase I've ever made."

>>PERCENTAGE

17.21% of the reader vote

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Words: Rob Mead-Green **Illustration:** Sam Williams @ Magictorch

iTunes

The Essential Guide

Find out everything you need to know about your Mac's amazing entertainment centre

When Mac developer Casady & Greene sold its audio player, *SoundJam MP*, to Apple at the turn of the century, it couldn't possibly have imagined what would become of its poster child.

Within a year it had been transformed into *iTunes 1.0*, then used as a launch pad for the very first iPod, and history was made. Today, *iTunes* is a true giant among Apple applications – a massive, multi-platform colossus that bestrides millions of Macs, PCs, iPhones, iPods and iPads. It has helped turn Apple into one of the world's largest entertainment retailers. And very soon it'll become an internet phenomenon too, thanks to the launch of iCloud and iTunes Connect – two new services due later this year and next, which will give you easy access to all the content you own, wherever you may be.

Of course, *iTunes* has only been able to become ubiquitous because of what it can do. You can use it to buy, rent or download music, movies and TV shows; listen to podcasts or thousands of internet radio stations; buy books; subscribe to magazines; and keep your iOS device loaded up with tons of clever, innovative and exciting apps that will keep you entertained at home and away. And, of course, it's free.

Indeed there's so much to *iTunes* that it can be tricky to know where to start, whether you are a new or experienced user. So we've put together this essential guide to help you get the best from *iTunes*, from the very basics to advanced tips and tricks, with particular emphasis on the key features of *iTunes 10* and synchronising your stuff using an iPad, iPod or iPhone. Ready? Let's dive right in… »

iTunes File Edit View Controls Store Advanced Window Help
Thu 10:52
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Amy Winehouse — Back To Black
AMY MACDONALD
AMY WINEHOUSE
BACK TO BLACK
Back To Black
Amy Winehouse
2999 items, 8.1 days, 15.89 GB
MacBook Air

Get back to basics

What iTunes is, what it does and how it can benefit you…

Because *iTunes* can do so much, it can seem daunting to use at first – there are so many options, tabs, sidebars and buttons to choose from. But when you break it down, it really is quite simple to get to grips with and you'll soon find yourself adding and enjoying content without a second thought.

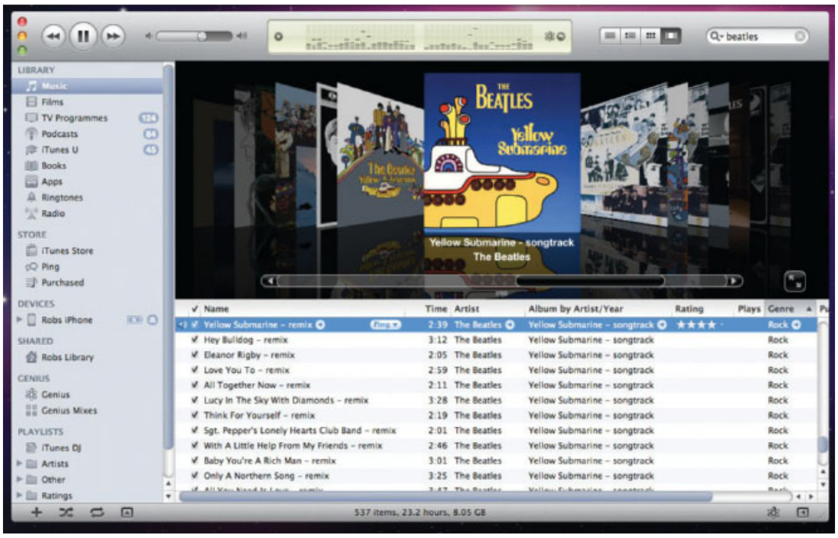
One of the best ways to figure out what's going on is to look at the Source sidebar on the left of the *iTunes* window. Here your *iTunes* library is divided into different sub-sections – Music, Films, TV Programmes, Podcasts, iTunes U, Apps, Ringtones and Radio – and it's where all your media content is organised. Below that is the Store section, which enables you to go shopping for new music, movies, and so on, using the iTunes Store, and to engage in some music-oriented social networking with Ping. And you'll also find Genius, which helps you discover old favourites and new media. And, finally there are Playlists, which gives you different ways to enjoy your stuff by slicing it up into manageable, customisable chunks.

Want to watch a movie in iTunes? Rent or buy one from the iTunes Store then hit ⌘+F on the keyboard to watch it full screen.

At the Source

You can listen to or watch anything that's in your library using the Source sidebar. Selecting any one of the options reveals relevant content in the middle window (the browser). This is where you can see, explore and play all the stuff in your library. But what do you do if you can't find anything under Music or Films? You next step is to import or 'rip' content from media you own already, such as music CDs. The other option is to use your new *iTunes* account to do a little shopping at the iTunes Store.

Importing a music CD couldn't be easier – it will automatically appear in *iTunes* when you insert one into your Mac's optical drive and *iTunes* will scurry off to the internet to fetch details about it from the Gracenote online music database. You can edit any details (these are known as ID tags or metatags) it finds by selecting a track or multiple tracks and selecting ⌘+I. You can also add in your own cover artwork either by scanning it in manually, doing a Google search or using the power of the iTunes Store.



✓	Name	Time	Artist	Album by Artist/Year	Rating	Plays	Genre
✓	Yellow Submarine – remix	2:39	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack	★★★★		Rock
✓	Hey Bulldog – remix	3:12	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Eleanor Rigby – remix	2:05	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Love You To – remix	2:59	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	All Together Now – remix	2:11	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds – remix	3:28	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Think For Yourself – remix	2:19	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band – remix	2:01	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	With A Little Help From My Friends – remix	2:46	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Baby You're A Rich Man – remix	3:01	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock
✓	Only A Northern Song – remix	3:25	The Beatles	Yellow Submarine – songtrack			Rock

537 items, 23.2 hours, 8.05 GB

iTunes 10 is a fun place to be. It's the home for all your music, movies, TV shows, iOS apps and books.

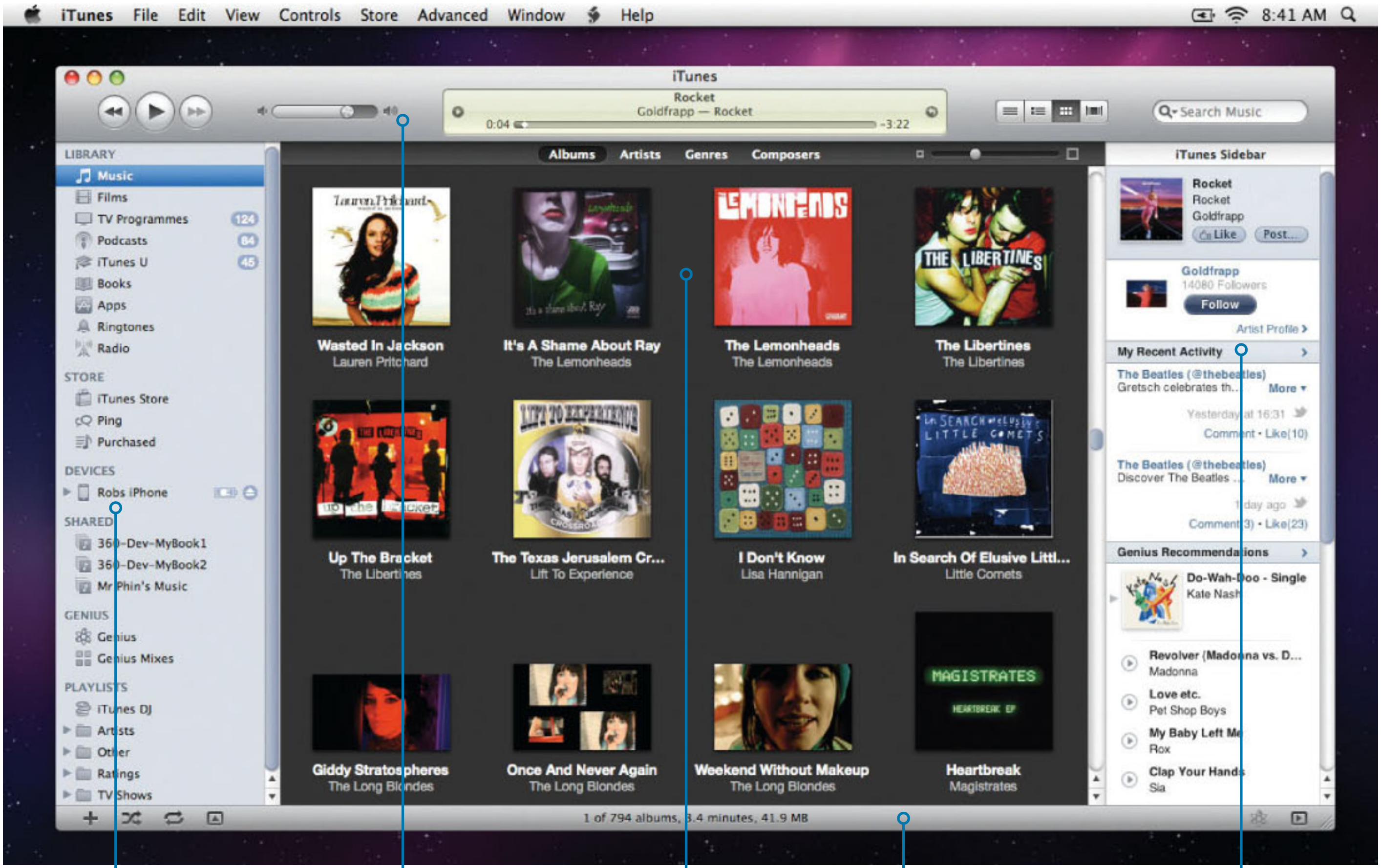
iTunes imports songs using the same audio codec as the iTunes Store – 256kbps AAC – although you can easily change this by selecting Preferences > Import Settings from the *iTunes* main menu. Here you'll find a wide range of audio codecs to choose from – including MP3, WAV and Apple Lossless, although *iTunes* doesn't support more exotic codecs like Ogg Vorbis or FLAC. To all but the most sensitive of ears, 256kbps AAC is virtually indistinguishable from CD quality and offers the best compromise between sound quality and storage space. Your mileage may vary.

Album artwork

To get album artwork from the iTunes Store you'll need to use either an existing Apple ID or an *iTunes* account (the two are usually interlinked); failing that, you'll have to create a new one. Do this by selecting Store > Create Account from the *iTunes* main menu. Once you've done that you can import album artwork by going to the main menu again and selecting Advanced > Get Album Artwork.

Signing up for an iTunes Store account has several other benefits, of course: you can use it to buy and download a huge range of current and back-catalogue albums, music videos, books, movies and TV shows. You can also use your

HOW TO / Find your way around iTunes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Follow
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The Beatles (@thebeatles)
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More
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Comment • Like(10)
The Beatles (@thebeatles)
Discover The Beatles ...
More
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Genius Recommendations
Do-Wah-Doo - Single
Kate Nash
Revolver (Madonna vs. D...
Madonna
Love etc.
Pet Shop Boys
My Baby Left Me
Rox
Clap Your Hands
Sia

Source
For quick access to your library. Click a shortcut to show related content in the browser. You can also access the iTunes Store and manage iOS devices and go to playlists.

Toolbar
Here you'll find the most-used features, from basic playback and volume controls to the Search box and Show Items buttons. In the middle is the status window.

Browser
Scroll through your library contents and choose what you'd like to play. The browser shows off your content by way of the Show Items buttons, found in the Toolbar.

Status Bar
This strip is dotted with useful tools, including the option to create Playlists. It also contains info about the contents of your library (i.e. how many songs you have).

iTunes Sidebar
Enables you to view recommended content available from the iTunes Store, based on what's in your library already. The Sidebar also shows off your recent activity.

iTunes Store account to get a whole bunch of free stuff, from promotional singles and movie trailers to hundreds and hundreds of podcasts. You can even listen and watch study materials, courtesy of some of the world's leading universities, via iTunes U.

Moving pictures

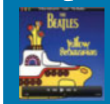
Movie and TV content on *iTunes* is often available in both standard definition (640x480 resolution) and high definition (1280x720p) versions, with 1080p content rumoured to be available later this year.

Watching HD content on the small screens of the iPhone or 11-inch MacBook Air may not be all that beneficial, but you can easily hook them up to an external monitor or a TV to make the most of the picture quality.

Neither do you have to buy movies outright – the iTunes Store also gives you the option to rent a whole range of films. You can store a rented movie on your Mac for up to 30 days without watching it, but once you do, you only have 48 hours to watch the remainder otherwise it will magically disappear.

Talking of the iPhone, we can't mention the features of *iTunes* without also including one of the main reasons why it exists at all: its close integration with iOS devices such as the iPhone, iPod and iPad. Setting up, managing and filling any of these devices with content is almost always done via *iTunes*, although that looks likely to change later this year with the introduction of iCloud. You can find our more about using your iOS device with *iTunes* on page 42.

QUICK TIP



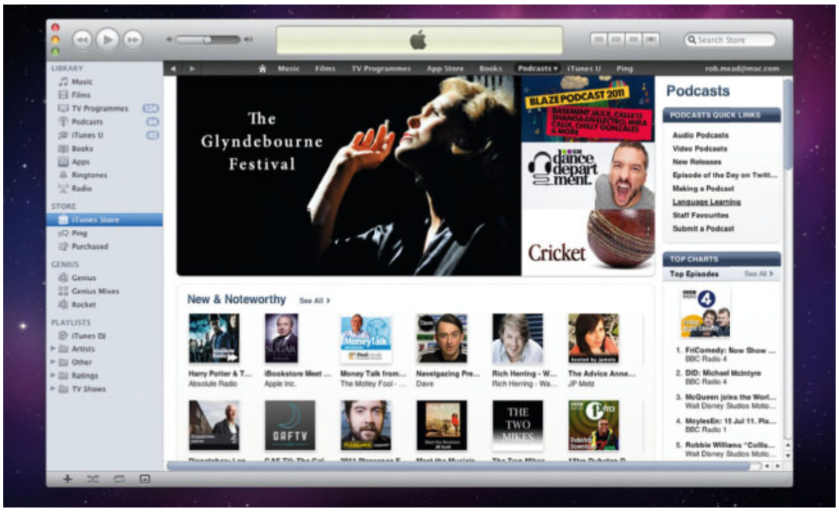
iTunes 10 has a mini-player that displays album art while songs play. To use it, choose a track, then click the Show/Hide artwork icon. Click the artwork and it will move to its own window. Hover over it to reveal playback controls.

Sharing your iTunes library

Let your whole family in on the iTunes experience. Here's how…

For those of you who have multiple users on your Mac, you'll notice that *iTunes* creates individual folders for each one in Home/Music. That's great if you'd rather not listen to your daughter's *Glee* soundtrack collection, but it's not so good if you want to share lots of stuff – music, movies, TV shows, and so on – because you could end up with gigabytes of duplicated content, a rapidly shrinking hard disk drive and a lot of wasted hours as everyone spends time on your Mac populating their own *iTunes* folders.

The smart way around this is to create a shared *iTunes* folder that lives either in Your Mac/Users/Shared on an external hard drive that's connected to your Mac either physically using FireWire, USB or Thunderbolt cables, or wirelessly using Apple AirPort. Either way, everyone who uses your Mac can still have their own customised *iTunes* library – the only real difference is the way in which all of its media contents are stored. You can find out how to do this below in How to Share Music, Movies and More…



iTunes makes it easy to subscribe to podcasts, with hundreds available from the iTunes Store.

Get organised

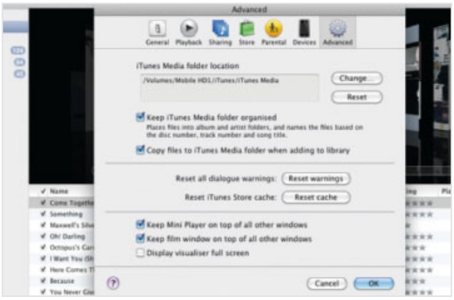
The only tedious thing about merging an existing set of previously separate *iTunes* folders is that your new library will inevitably be filled with all kinds of nasties, from duplicated content to incorrectly tagged files with missing artwork. Your only option at this stage is to put in some hours trying to sort the whole mess out, but there are a few tools that can help you. You can track down the most obvious duplicates by going to File > Display Duplicates and then select which ones you'd like to delete, or you can use something smarter such as *Dupin* ($15/£9, Doug's Apps For *iTunes*, **www.dougscripts.com**), which gives you a higher degree of control over what's kept or deleted.

You can also clean up dodgy file tags (artist name, album name, track name, and so on), either by selecting Advanced > Get Track Names from the *iTunes* menu bar (you'll need an internet connection for this to work) or to use something such as *TuneUp* (from $40/£25, TuneUpMedia, **www.tuneupmedia.com**), which uses audio fingerprint technology to identify songs, correctly label them and download artwork. You can also get artwork for your Media Library from the iTunes Store by selecting Advanced > Get Album Artwork.

»QUICK TIP

To resize columns in the browser, right-click the column header to bring up the View Options menu. At the top are two options to resize your columns.

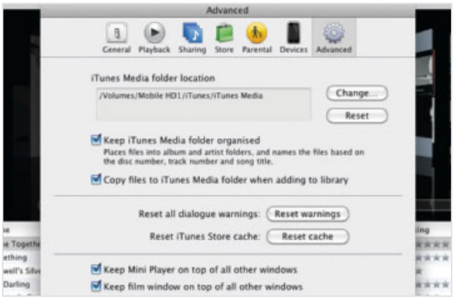
»HOW TO / Share your music, movies and more



iTunes Media folder location
/Volumes/Mobile HD1/iTunes/iTunes Media
☑ Keep iTunes Media folder organised
Places files into album and artist folders, and names the files based on the disc number, track number and song title.
☑ Copy files to iTunes Media folder when adding to library
Reset all dialogue warnings:
Reset iTunes Store cache:
☑ Keep Mini Player on top of all other windows
☑ Keep film window on top of all other windows
☐ Display visualiser full screen

01 Share your Media library

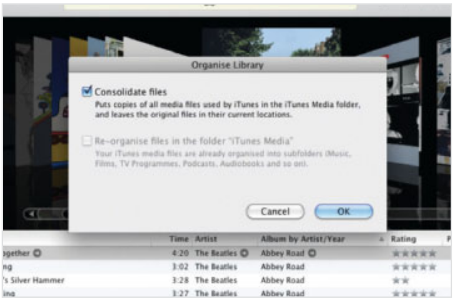
The best place for your new library is in a shared folder on your Mac or on an external disk drive. Select iTunes > Preferences > Advanced; click on the Change button to swap the default *iTunes* Media folder location from iTunes > Music > iTunes to its new destination.



iTunes Media folder location
/Volumes/Mobile HD1/iTunes/iTunes Media
☑ Keep iTunes Media folder organised
Places files into album and artist folders, and names the files based on the disc number, track number and song title.
☑ Copy files to iTunes Media folder when adding to library
Reset all dialogue warnings:
Reset iTunes Store cache:
☑ Keep Mini Player on top of all other windows
☑ Keep film window on top of all other windows

02 Get and stay organised

To make sure your files go and stay where they're supposed to select iTunes > Preferences > Advanced and choose Keep Media Folder Organised and Copy Files To iTunes Media Folder When Adding To Library. You'll need to do this for every user account.

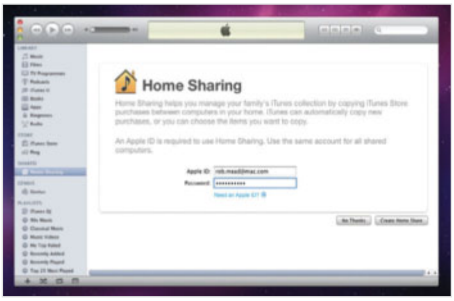


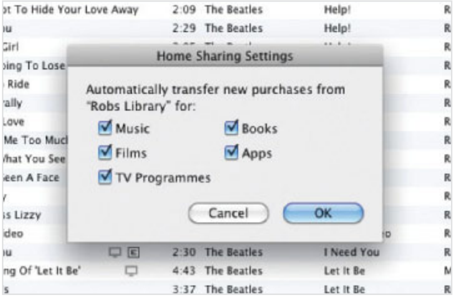
☑ Consolidate files
Puts copies of all media files used by iTunes in the iTunes Media folder, and leaves the original files in their current locations.
☐ Re-organise files in the folder "iTunes Media"
Your iTunes media files are already organised into subfolders (Music, Films, TV Programmes, Podcasts, Audiobooks and so on).

03 Consolidate your library

Now you can copy any existing media files to their new location. In *iTunes*, go to File > Library > Organise Library and then select Consolidate Files. You can also keep your *iTunes* Media files organised in categories by selecting Re-organise Files In The Folder 'iTunes Media'. ●

HOW TO / Use Home Sharing





Home Sharing Settings

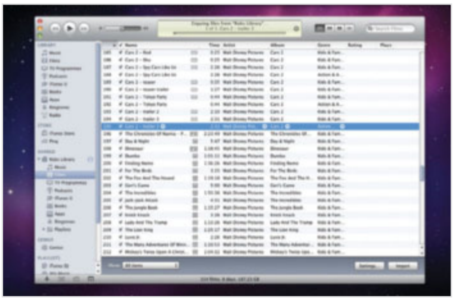
Automatically transfer new purchases from "Robs Library" for:

☑ Music ☑ Books

☑ Films ☑ Apps

☑ TV Programmes

Cancel OK



01 Turn on Home Sharing

Home Sharing makes it easy to share content from one Mac with up to five other Macs. But it only works if you have an Apple ID and use the same one to log into each Mac. To activate Home Sharing, select Advanced > Turn On Home Sharing from the *iTunes* menu bar.

02 See and share

Home Sharing appears in the Source Bar in the main *iTunes* window. Listed below it are *iTunes* Media categories you can share between Macs. Selecting the Settings button enables each Mac to automatically be updated when you buy something from the iTunes Store.

03 Copying over content

Once you've found a track, album or movie you want to copy from one Mac to another, select it and click on the Import button. You can update playlists and ratings in your master library by selecting the Home Sharing option in iTunes > Preferences > Sharing.

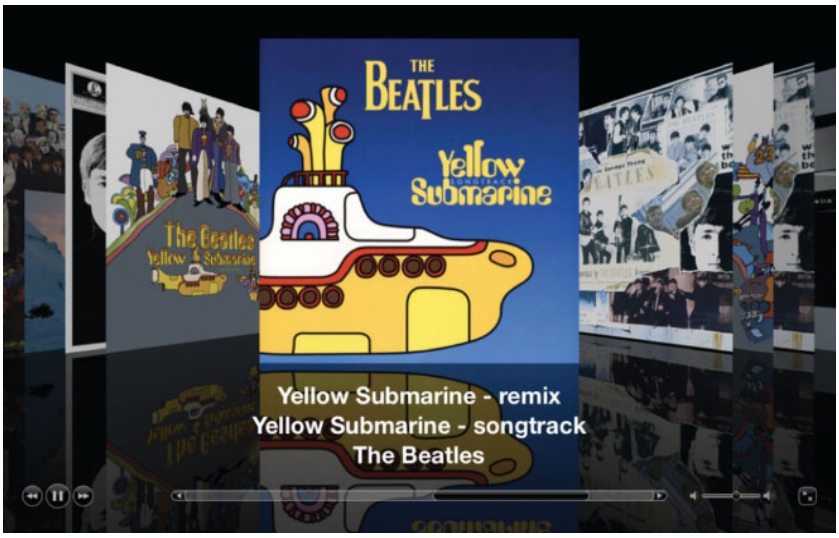
Other user accounts

Once you're happy with the contents of your new tidy *iTunes* Media folder, you now need to do the same for each user account. The best way to do this is to go to File > Add To Library again, but this time select only the contents you want to add. That way, every member of your family will have the media they want – and you'll have an overview of the whole library so you can manage the contents. The only slight downer with *iTunes* here is that you'll periodically need to go through the Add To Library process again from time to time, since new content or changes made by other users of your Mac won't show up automatically when you open your own version of the *iTunes* library.

Home Sharing

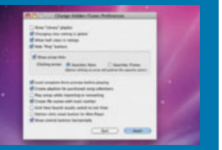
Of course, if you have multiple Macs at home, sharing *iTunes* content between them becomes a whole different ballgame. You won't have to worry about duplicated content taking up space on your hard disk drive for one thing. But you can still share stuff between different Macs using Home Sharing, or you can just stream content from one Mac to another via Wi-Fi. To do either of these things go to iTunes > Preferences and then select the Sharing tab. To share music with other Macs in your household select Share my Library and then choose whether you want to share the whole thing, or just selected Playlists. If you want to, you can set a password that other users have to enter to get access to your library – something that can come in handy if you want to share a playlist of sweary comedy records with your partner, but not your kids.

Home Sharing takes the concept one stage further by enabling you to copy the contents of your *iTunes* library between five different computers or devices using the same Apple ID. It's a great way to share the same content on a desktop Mac or a laptop at home, or even a computer at work. You can rate and change the play counts of songs in your library from another Mac – the only catch is, you can't share content between different Apple IDs, only the same ID five different times. For more details, see the How to use Home Sharing box, above.



Cover Flow view is the most attractive, if not the most practical, way to view your albums.

QUICK TIP



Dislike the 'traffic light' control buttons in *iTunes 10*? Change them back to their old horizontal behaviour using the free *Change Hidden Preferences* app (**www.dougsapplescripts.com**).

As we've already hinted at in this feature, there may be some stuff in your *iTunes* Media that you simply don't want to share with younger family members, such as songs with explicit lyrics. This is where *iTunes*' Parental Controls come in. You can choose to restrict material by age range, rating, content (that is, whether or not it is labelled 'explicit') or even choose to switch off certain options altogether, including Podcasts, Radio, the iTunes Store and Shared Libraries. You can also manually tag specific tracks, albums and other content using third-party apps such as *Subler* (donationware, Damiano Galassi, http://code.google.com/publisher) or *MetaX* (free, Rodney O. Kerstetter, Kerstetter.net).

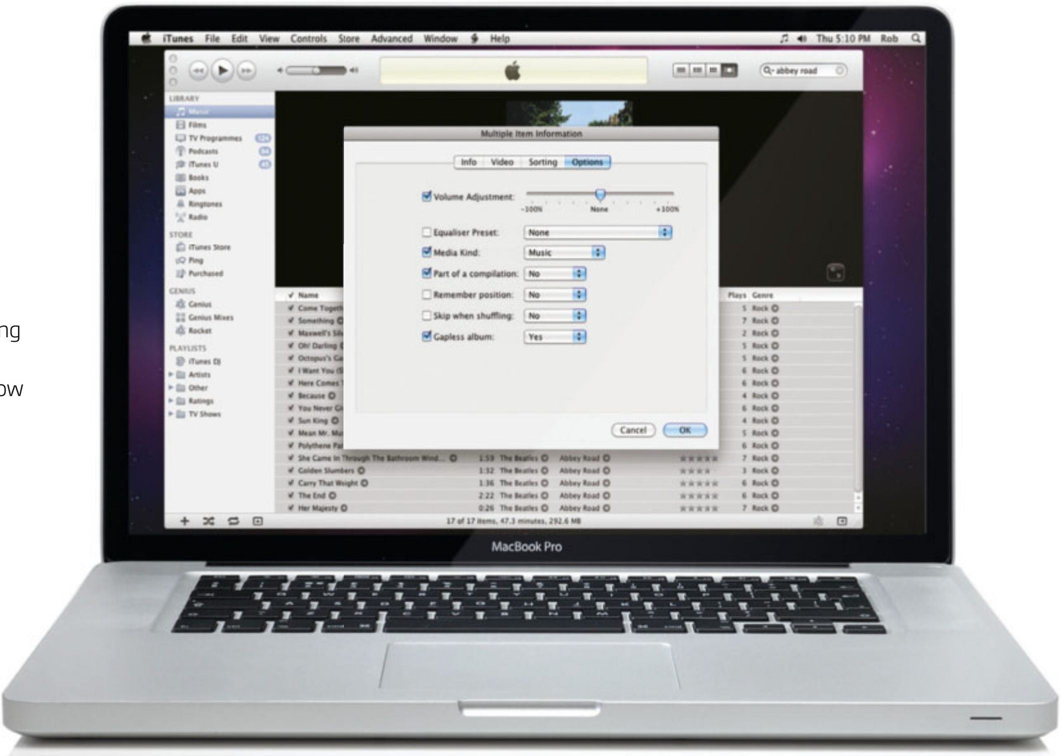
»

Top 10 iTunes tips and tricks

Discover the little things that make such a big difference

Edit song info

01 *iTunes* makes it really easy to change the info about the songs and albums in your library at any time, simply by selecting the tracks you want to change and hitting ⌘+I. Do that and you get a pop-up window containing four different tabs – Info, Video, Sorting, Options. One of the most popular changes is to select Gapless Album under Options. This helps to prevent those annoying breaks between different tracks that are meant to seamlessly flow into the other – ideal for both your favourite classical and prog-rock albums.

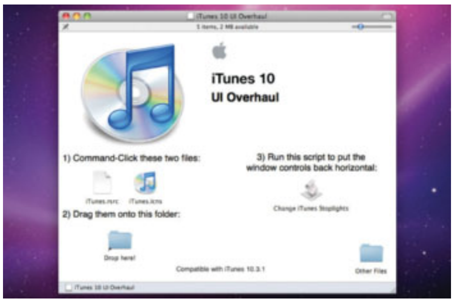


Multiple Item Information

Info | Video | Sorting | Options

☑ Volume Adjustment: -100% None +100%
☐ Equaliser Preset: None
☑ Media Kind: Music
☑ Part of a compilation: No
☐ Remember position: No
☐ Skip when shuffling: No
☑ Gapless album: Yes

Make sure your albums play exactly as you want them to by editing song info.



iTunes 10 UI Overhaul

1) Command-Click these two files:

2) Drag them onto this folder:

3) Run this script to put the window controls back horizontal:

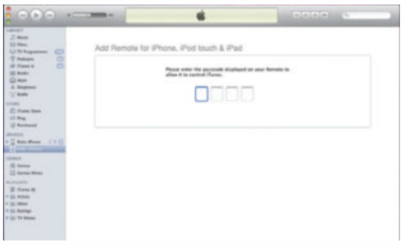
iTunes 10 came with some tweaks to the interface.

Restore iTunes 9's look and feel

02 Apple introduced some interface changes with *iTunes 10*, the most controversial of which were ditching the colour icons on the Source sidebar, changing the 'traffic light' control buttons from horizontal to vertical and swapping out the old app icon with a new one. If you prefer *iTunes 9's* look and feel, then check out http://shaunr.net. Here you'll find a number of changes for *iTunes 10* but make sure you back up *iTunes* before making any updates.

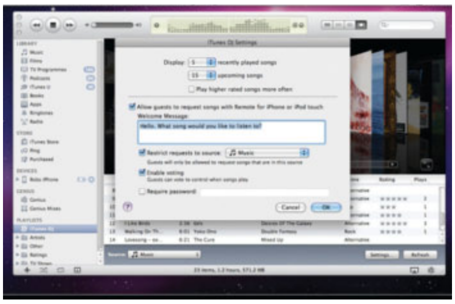
Control from your iPhone

03 You don't have to sit at your Mac to control *iTunes*. Download Apple's *Remote* app (free, http://bit.ly/rv4VG7) and take control of *iTunes* via Wi-Fi so you can play songs, watch movies and more wherever you are in your home. To get *iTunes* and *Remote* to work together, go to Advanced > Turn On Home Sharing from *iTunes* menu bar. Open the app on your iOS device and the two should pair.



Add Remote for iPhone, iPod touch & iPad

Remote will give you a 4-digit code for iTunes.



iTunes DJ Settings

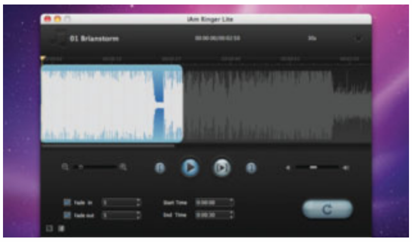
Let iTunes generate a playlist from your best songs.

Any requests?

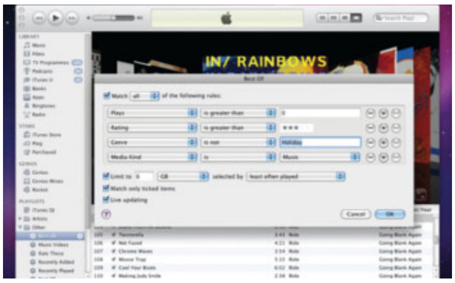
04 iTunes DJ is like a virtual radio station for your Mac, drawing music and other content at random from your library. You can even make song requests from another Mac or by using the *Remote* app for the iPhone and iPod touch. The songs you request then appear in the iTunes DJ playlist. You can decide how quickly your requested song plays by voting for it so it moves up the playlist. To set up guest requests and voting, go to iTunes DJ > Settings.

Create your own ringtone

05 One way to personalise your iPhone is to use a custom ringtone. You can create your own using *GarageBand '11*, which includes an iPhone ringtone option. Or you could take a song from your *iTunes* library and turn it into a ringtone using an app such as *iAm Ringtone Maker Lite* (free, Mac App Store). The app enables you to select the bit of song you want and save it in *iTunes* in the Ringtones folder.



Now you can make your own annoying ringtone!



You can create Smart Playlists to suit various occasions.

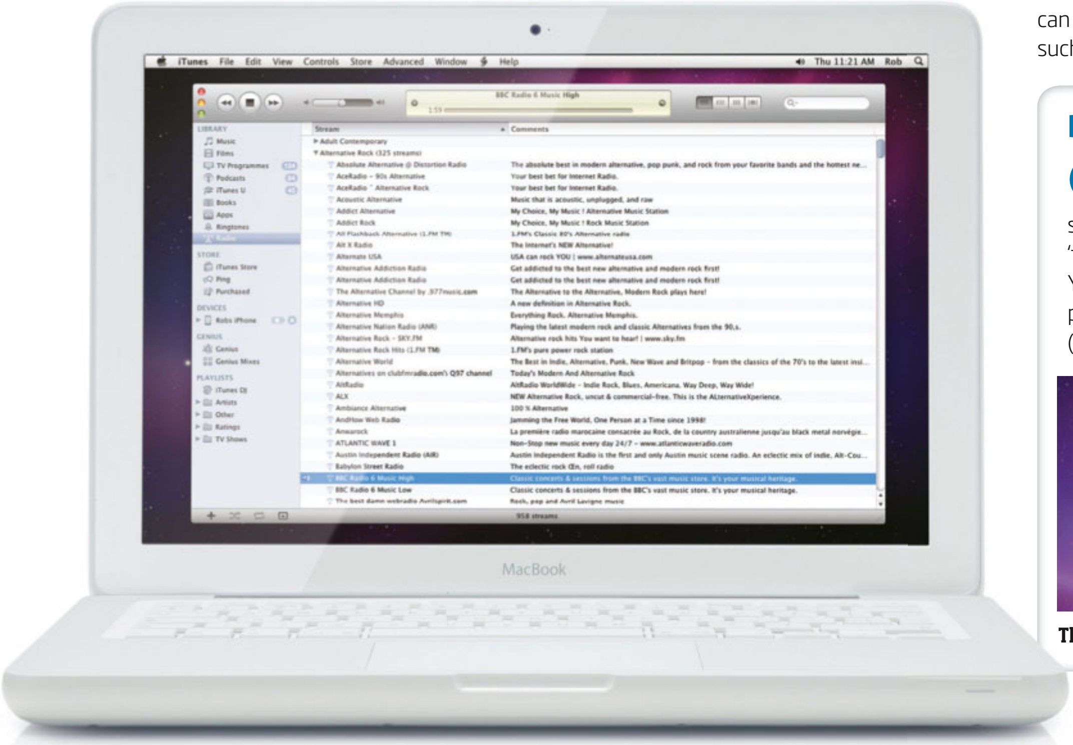
Be smart about playlists

06 Smart playlists are indeed very clever in *iTunes*. They enable you to create playlists that are based on certain rules – so you could have one that plays every single song by The Beatles except *Yellow Submarine*, for example, or another that includes 5-star songs only. Or both. Apple includes some great examples to get you started – you'll find them in *iTunes*' Source bar, but it's easy to create your own. Just go to File > New Smart Playlist and try out the various rules. It's fun and easy to do.

Get free music

10 It may not be pretty to look at, but the built-in Radio is one of the best things about *iTunes*. It enables you to listen to thousands of hours of music and chat from hundreds of internet radio stations. And it's all completely free. Radio categorises the radio streams for easy identification and you can easily tell what's currently playing. The only thing you can't do in *iTunes* is record the radio stream. But there are third-party apps around (Audio Hijack, £12, www.rogueamoeba.com, for instance) that enable you to do just that.

Discover new music on iTunes' fantastic hidden gem of a feature.

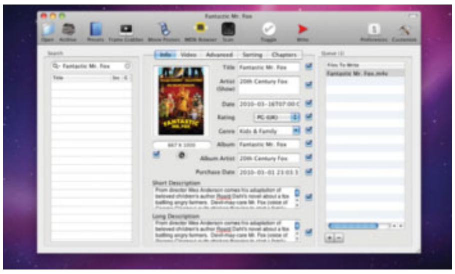


Purchased
Apps
Books

Use your Apple ID to get apps on your iOS devices.

Get iOS apps automatically

07 A feature of iCloud in *iTunes 10.3* is the ability to automatically download purchases made on the iTunes Store using your Apple ID – so if you buy an app on your iPhone, it will download to your Mac. For now, you're limited to books and apps, but that will change when iCloud arrives in the autumn.



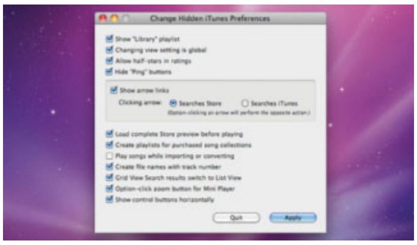
Get organised and keep things in their proper place.

Stop iTunes file confusion

08 *iTunes* can sometimes mix up audiobooks with music or put music vids in with movies. Changing file metatags in *iTunes* doesn't always work since files can revert to old behaviour if you have to reimport them. But you can make media metatags stick by using an app such as *MetaX* (free, http://bit.ly/pU8jkh).

Discover hidden preferences

09 There are lots of secret things you can do with *iTunes 10* – add half-star ratings or change orientation of the 'traffic light' control buttons, for example. You can access these preferences in one place with the *Hidden Preferences* app (free, www.dougsapplescripts.com).



There's always further tweaking to be done!

»

Get the best from the iTunes Store and Ping

Discover new music and find out what you're friends are listening to

One of the best – and (whisper it) worst – things about *iTunes* is arguably the iTunes Store. It's great because it's a quick and convenient way to find, buy and download the latest albums, music videos, podcasts, books and movies. It's bad because you can spend a heck of a lot of money and arguably it's helping to speed the decline of bricks-and-mortar stores. *iTunes 10* also introduces Ping, a quasi-social network that enables you to 'Like' and comment on songs you've listened to or bought and then share that information with friends and other Ping/iTunes Store users.

To get the best from both services, of course, you'll need an Apple ID and to log your payment details with the iTunes Store. This enables you to make one-click purchases of media without having to enter your bank or credit card details each time. It also enables you to book a Season Pass for a TV series, each new episode being automatically delivered to your iTunes account when it's available for download. An Apple ID (essentially an iTunes Store account) is also necessary if you own an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad, as you won't be able to download any of those weird and wonderful iOS apps without one.

MacBook Air

The iTunes Store offers an easy way to rent films online, with prices starting at as little as 99p.

»QUICK TIP

See what's in your library by using the column browser and sorting by Artist, Genre, Albums, Composers and Groupings.

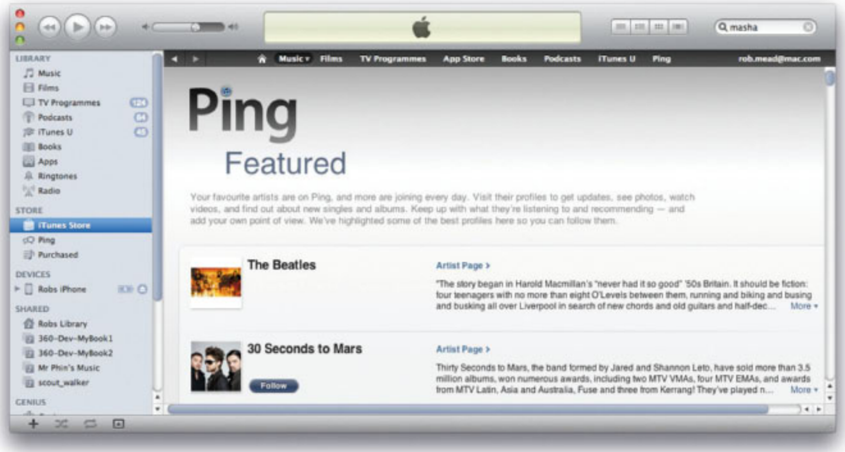
The genius of Genius

An Apple ID or iTunes account also enables you to use Genius – iTunes built-in recommendation engine. It's a great way to discover new music, movies and TV programmes based on content you already have in your *iTunes* library, as well as from other Genius users who have broadly similar tastes.

To use Genius go to Store > Turn On Genius from the iTunes menu bar, enter your Apple ID, accept the terms and conditions and then select Turn On Genius from the next screen. Genius will then scan your *iTunes* Media folder for content and deliver its recommendations to you. You'll also notice the Source sidebar now has two new additions: Genius and Genius Mixes. Play any song from your library and then click on the Genius icon in the menu bar and Genius will automatically create a playlist based on your selection.

The playlist can be as short as 25 songs or as long as 100. You can also refresh the playlist at any time for a different selection of songs or even save the playlist – a great way to save any Genius playlists you particularly like. Select Genius Mixes from the Source side and you'll immediately notice a grid of Genius playlists based on different musical categories. To play a Genius Mix simply select the playback controls at the centre of the Artwork. Unfortunately you can't customise a Genius Mix or even see what its contents are. But it's a great way to keep your music collection fresh – and throw up a surprise or two.

The Genius is useful in another way, in that it enables Apple to make recommendations for you from the iTunes Store, based on what you like and others like already. You'll notice that the *iTunes* sidebar is populated with Genius Recommendations; clicking on the links here will take you to the relevant section of the iTunes Store so you can find out more or buy. To hear or see a preview of anything in the iTunes Store, hold the cursor over its track number and it will turn into a Play button, which will then serve up a 30-second clip for you to watch or listen to.



Your favourite artists are on Ping, and more are joining every day. Visit their profiles to get updates, see photos, watch videos, and find out about new singles and albums. Keep up with what they're listening to and recommending — and add your own point of view. We've highlighted some of the best profiles here so you can follow them.

The Beatles

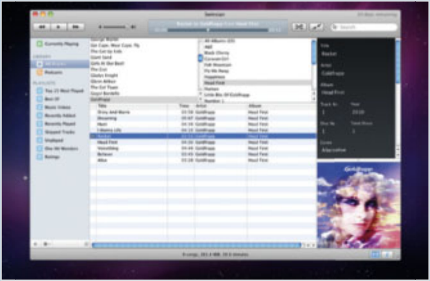
"The story began in Harold Macmillan's "never had it so good" '50s Britain. It should be fiction: four teenagers with no more than eight O'Levels between them, running and biking and busing and busking all over Liverpool in search of new chords and old guitars and half-dec...

30 Seconds to Mars

Thirty Seconds to Mars, the band formed by Jared and Shannon Leto, have sold more than 3.5 million albums, won numerous awards, including two MTV VMAs, four MTV EMAs, and awards from MTV Latin, Asia and Australia, Fuse and three from Kerrang! They've played n...

Stay up to date with Ping – the music-based social network that comes included with iTunes 10.

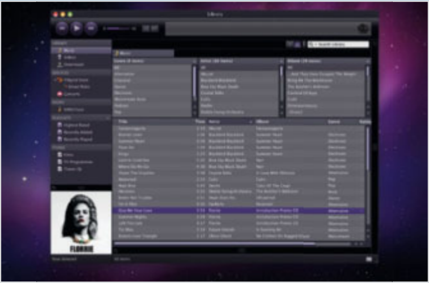
» TOP 3 / iTunes alternatives



Swinsian

£13 www.swinsian.com

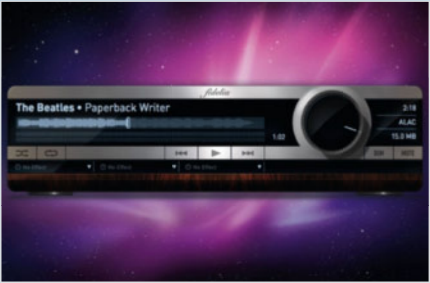
Imagine what *iTunes* would look like if it didn't have movies, TV shows, iOS apps and the iTunes Store to deal with. Chances are it would look a lot like *Swinsian*. Its look and feel makes it immediately familiar to anyone who's used *iTunes*, only the focus is entirely on music and audio. It looks beautiful, works beautifully and plays nice with iTunes and iPods too.



Songbird

Free www.getsongbird.com

Created by Mozilla, *Songbird* is an open source music and video player that's available for Mac, PC and other devices like Philips portable music players and Android phones. It apes many of *iTunes*' features and even enables you to play Fairplay DRM-encypted content. It also includes FLAC and Ogg Vorbis compatibility, which *iTunes* does not.



Fidelia

From $20 (£12) www.audiofile-engineering.com

Now this is properly old-school. *Fidelia* eschews all that vulgar video nonsense by concentrating purely on music, with the application aping the shape of what people used to call 'hi-fi'. *Fidelia* supports a wide range of audio codecs including FLAC and Ogg Vorbis. The Advanced version includes additional audiophile features, including a sample rate converter.

Exploring the iTunes Store

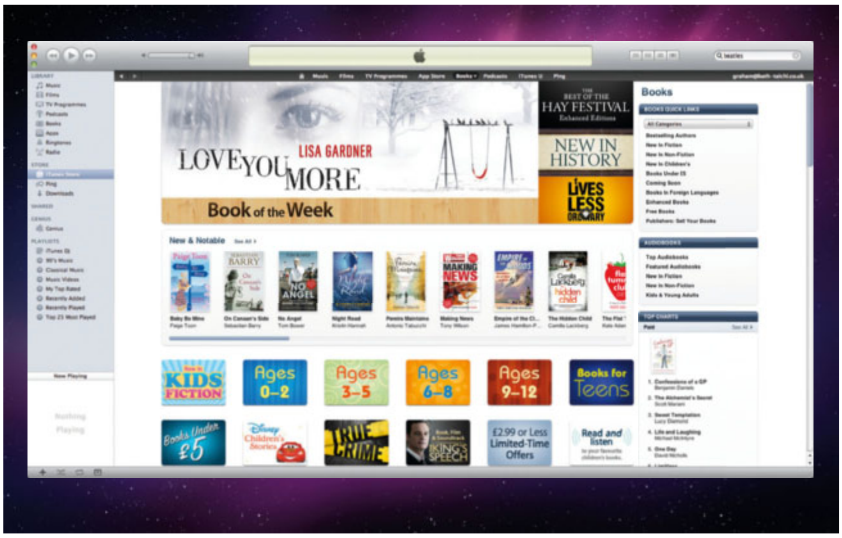
Select iTunes Store from the Sources sidebar in the *iTunes* browser and you'll be able to see the main categories of content that are on offer. It's a bit like discovering the floor map in a department store with Music, Films, TV Programmes, the App Store, Books, Podcasts, iTunes U and Ping available. Clicking on any one of these options will take you to a shop window for each section. On the right are various user account options and charts.

The most important bit of the iTunes Store though is right at the top in the *iTunes* toolbar, where you'll notice that the Search field has now turned into Search Store. It's by far the quickest way to find anything specific in the store, with the results page returning everything related to the search term, from music to podcasts to apps. The easiest way to filter the result is to select one of the icons in the Filter By Media Type option in the search results sidebar on the left. Or you can also simply scroll down the page until you find the option you want. If you can't see what you want right away, clicking See All beside each Media Type opens up the field even more.

If your favourite artists are on *iTunes*, it's easy to keep tabs on what they're up to and get warning of when new stuff from them comes to the store. Click on their name and you're usually taken to a customised artist homepage, which enables you to sign up for new alerts, to see their biography and the full range of the content available from them. If you've signed up to Ping, you'll also be able to 'Follow' them, and read any messages they've posted.

Listed on the right sidebar under People you will find a list of fellow fans. Click on the See All option and *iTunes* will switch to a list showing them all. Beside each one you'll find a Follow button that enables you to follow them too. Following other fans might seem a bit weird, but it's a great way to discover new music: clicking on any fan's profile enables you to see what other kinds of music they like on *iTunes*. The chances are that if they like something you already like, you'll like the stuff that they like to. And if that involves a singer, a band, a style of music you've never tried before, it could open up whole musical avenues.

If following random individuals on Ping seems a little stalkerish, then why not invite friends and family to join you too? You can ask people to join you on Ping by sending a message to their email address or by searching for friends using MobileMe, Windows Live, Yahoo or AOL – links to which are already built into *iTunes*. Linking Ping to your Twitter account is another great way to find out who else is around. It also gives you the option to automatically send a new tweet every time you do something on Ping, whether that's liking a posting or posting a review.



The iTunes Store enables you to buy new and old music, movies, books, iOS apps and much more.

» QUICK TIP

iTunes' full-screen view (⌘+F) offers 'lean back' control of your music library, which is ideal for relaxing get-togethers. Just use your Apple Remote or the *Remote Control* app for the iPhone to navigate your way through.

Synchronising with your iPhone, iPod and iPad

It's easy to share your content between your Mac and iOS device. Here's how…

Ever since Apple launched the first iPod in 2001, it has been inextricably linked with *iTunes* – both as a way of filling it up with music and other content, and for managing settings and software updates. That largely remains true today with the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, all of which are dependent on *iTunes* to a certain extent.

However, the physical ties – hooking up your iOS device to a Mac or PC via FireWire or USB – that bind them to each other will be severed in September with the launch of iCloud, iTunes Connect and iOS 5, which will finally enable iOS and OS X devices to synchronise with each other wirelessly via the internet – no cable required. You won't even need to activate your new iPhone via *iTunes* as you do now. Having said that, being able to sync your iOS devices wirelessly won't always be either desirable or convenient, which is why *iTunes* on the Mac will continue to have a role for the foreseeable future.

Whichever way you choose to sync your iOS device with your Mac, there are things you can do. Whichever iOS device you plug in, you'll see it appear in the Sources sidebar. Click on it and a new view opens up in the main browser window, which enables you decide what kind of content you want to sync, from address books contacts and emails to movies, music and podcasts. Along the bottom is a Capacity bar that tells you how much space on your device certain kinds of content take up.

» QUICK TIP

One of the most neglected gems in *iTunes* is Visualiser – a spectacular light show that pulses in time to music as it plays. You can find it under the View menu in the *iTunes* menu bar.

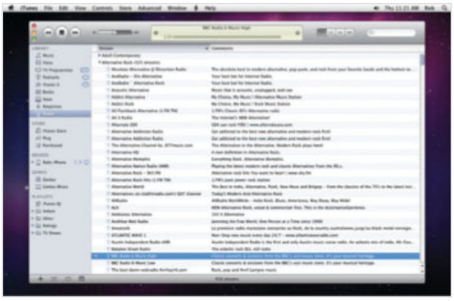
The first tab you come to – Summary – is arguably the most important. It tells you everything you need to know about your iOS device at a glance – from its name and storage capacity to the iOS software version it's running. The Summary table also enables you to update iOS or return the whole shebang to its factory settings – handy if your iOS device becomes corrupted for some reason or you just to want to clear it out before selling it on.

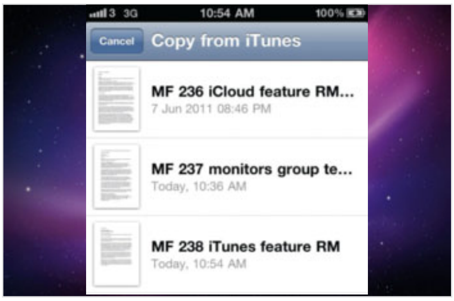
Scroll to the bottom of the page and you'll come across Options, which includes a handy selection of settings you can toggle on and off so your iOS device behaves differently the next time you sync. These include the ability to sync only certain kinds of content, to live-convert higher bit rate songs in your Mac's *iTunes* library to 128kbps when you sync them with your iOS device, and to encrypt *iTunes* backups.

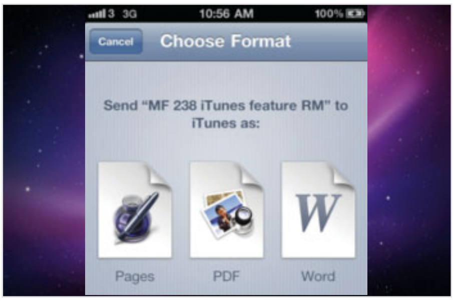
Synchronising content

Most of the other sections (music, films, TV programmes, podcasts and *iTunes*) work in a similar way. That is you can choose to synchronise the contents of each one of the areas automatically or manually (i.e. individually). The Automatic option works extremely well with a

» HOW TO / Share Pages documents using iTunes







01 Get set to sync

For this to work you will need to have *Pages* installed on your Mac and your iPhone or iPad. From the *iTunes* Source bar, select your iPhone or iPad and go to the Apps tab. Scroll to the bottom of the page until you get to File Sharing. Choose Pages from the left pane. The right pane will show the files that you can sync.

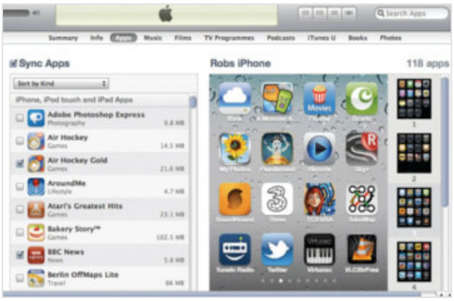
02 Drag, drop, transfer

Find the *Pages* document you want to sync with your iOS device and then drag and drop it into the right File Sharing pane in *iTunes*. Open up *Pages* on your iOS device and tap the '+' icon from the menu bar. Select Copy From and then tap the *iTunes* icon. Your file will now be transferred.

03 From mobile to Mac

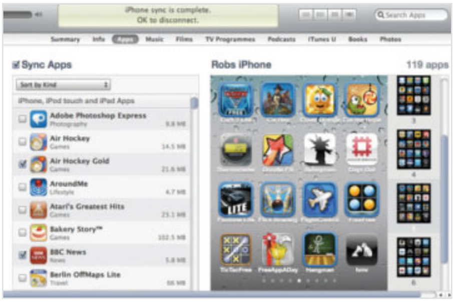
To copy a document from *Pages* for iPhone to your Mac, open a document and then select the Tool icon from the menu bar. You'll now be presented with a range of options to choose from. Now go to Share and Print > Send to iTunes. The file is now available in *iTunes* on your Mac. ●

» HOW TO / Get iOS apps organised in iTunes


Sync Apps
Robs iPhone
118 apps
Adobe Photoshop Express
Air Hockey
Air Hockey Gold
AroundMe
Atari's Greatest Hits
Bakery Story
BBC News
Berlin OffMaps Lite

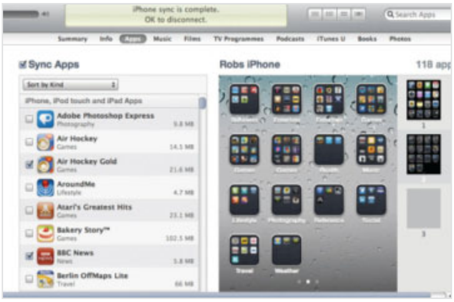
01 Synchronise apps

Synchronising iOS apps in *iTunes* is mainly painless except when *iTunes* decides to dump the apps you've chosen willy-nilly over several iOS screens. To tidy up, synchronise the apps you want on your iPhone or iPad first, then arrange them. Do it the other way and they'll just get messed up again.


iPhone sync is complete. OK to disconnect.
Sync Apps
Robs iPhone
119 apps

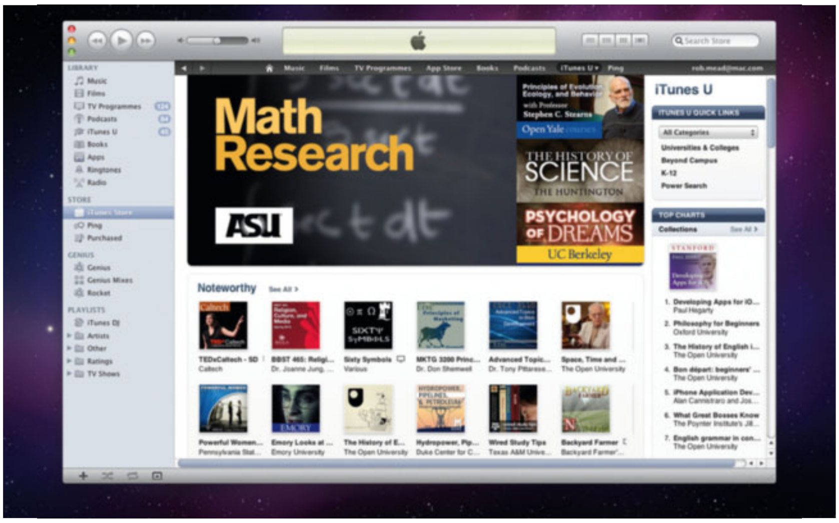
02 Move your apps

Now that's done it's time to sort them. It's quicker and easier to do this in *iTunes* if you can. Choosing and moving iOS apps works in a similar way in *iTunes* as it does on your iPhone or iPad. Click on the app you want to move to highlight it, then click and drag it to its new location.


iPhone sync is complete. OK to disconnect.
Sync Apps
Robs iPhone
118 apps

03 Moving many

You can group-move a bunch of apps by holding down the ⌘ key as you click on each one. You can also create folders of iOS apps by dragging and dropping one onto another. Rinse and repeat until your files are organised. Now hit the Apply button again. There. All done. ●


iTunes U
Math Research
ASU
Noteworthy
Principles of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior
The History of Science
Psychology of Dreams
UC Berkeley
TOP CHARTS

iTunes U has a huge range of learning materials – whether you're a student or doing it just for fun.

number of presets available that enable you to tweak at your leisure whatever content you want to get synchronised. You could choose to watch all the episodes of a certain show, the oldest unwatched episodes or the three latest episodes, for example. You can even customise these rules so they work differently for every iOS device that you want to sync.

What you might not realise, however, is that you can also synchronise all kinds of other content between your Mac and your iOS device. And these are things that you may not have thought possible – hook up items such as your own photos, movies and music created using apps on your iPhone, iPod or iPad. In iTunes > Source sidebar > your iOS device, select the Apps tab at the top of the browser window, then scroll to the bottom of the page and you'll see the File Sharing option.

The left pane shows all the applications you can synchronise files with; the right pane shows which files are being synced for each application.

Get things together

To synchronise a file, all you have to do is simply click on the application you want to sync, you can then drag and drop the file on to the right-hand pane. To finish off the sync, you then have to open the equivalent app on your iOS device and import it. You can find out how to do this in *Pages* in the box opposite. Ideally, you'd be able to seamlessly make any changes to documents on one platform and see them reflected on the other, just as you can with Dropbox. Unfortunately, we're not there yet. Instead you have to manually copy the new version back using the steps outlined on the opposite page. We're hoping that will change with the arrival of iCloud and iOS5 in the autumn.

With *iMovie*, things become a little more complex. Projects created on *iMovie* for iPhone or iPad aren't compatible with *iMovie* for Mac, so you can't start working on a film project in one version and then finish it off with the other. However, you can partially get around this by importing unedited footage from your iPhone, iPad or iPod touch into *iMovie* on your Mac. And you can export a completed *iMovie* project created on your iPhone into *iTunes*. You can also transfer *iMovie* clips from your Mac to *iMovie* for iPhone or iPad using *iTunes*' File Sharing option, but you'll need to make them iOS-compatible first. The easiest way to do this is to add the clip you want to copy to a new project and then select Share > iTunes from the *iMovie* menu bar. In the drop-down window that appears, select which iOS devices you want to make your film clip compatible with and then select Publish. After a few minutes, an iOS-compatible version of your original film clip will appear in *iTunes*, under the Films tab. ●

» QUICK TIP

iTunes makes automatic backups of your iOS device by default… but beware! Backups are unencrypted making them vulnerable to snoopers. To secure them, select 'Encrypt [your device] Backup' from the device's Summary window.

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+

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GET YOUR PERSONALISED NEWS USING REEDER P56

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Pocket G...
Revert to S...
TechCru...
The Brooks...
The Mediu...
Touch Arcade
Wired To...
Friday, 8 July 2011
MacFormat RSS feed
iHub iPhone app lets you track Apple's share price wherever you are
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MacFormat RSS feed
Vote to decide which is the most awesome Mac ever!
2 items
Readability

Wednesday, 22 June 2011 10:34

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MacFormat RSS feed

Laurence Cable

MacFormat presents The most awesome Mac EVER!

Over lunch recently, team MacFormat got into a debate about which is the most awesome Mac EVER!

How to...

PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

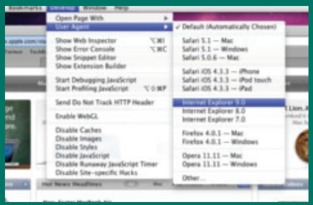
Rob Mead-Green
Deputy Editor

For most of us, *iMovie* achieves the perfect balance of powerful features and ease of use, but what if you want something more? On page 50, you can discover how to step up to *Final Cut Pro X*, the all-new, albeit controversial replacement for *Final Cut Express* and *Final Cut Pro*. If you're an *iMovie* user, *Final Cut Pro X*'s UI will make you feel right at home; but beneath its surface is a raft of pro-editing features that can help you turn a good home movie into a great one.

Heading in the other direction is this month's *Photoshop* tutorial, which shows you how to create a 'toy camera' effect using gradients. It's a great way to create a retro look from pristine digital photos and you can find out how to do it on page 46.

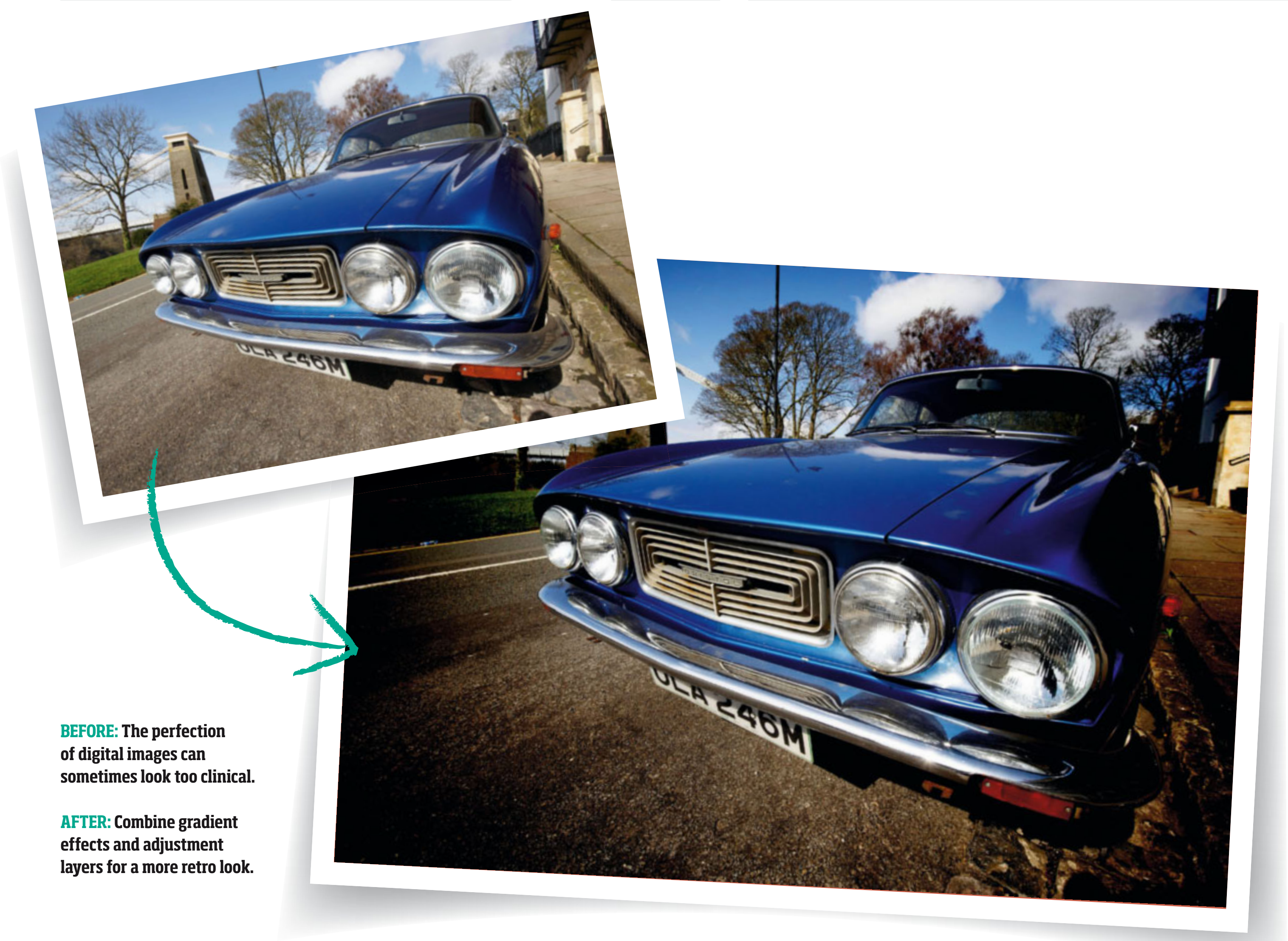
Elsewhere in this section, you'll find some great ideas for creating animations in *Keynote* (page 54), maintaining a family budget using *Money* (page 58) and getting better search results from the Spotlight in OS X (page 62).

If there are any tutorials that you'd like to see in *MacFormat*, please drop me an email (**rob.mead-green@futurenet.com**). I look forward to hearing from you.



>> DID YOU KNOW?

Safari can ape the behaviour of other web browsers using its developer mode. To enable it, go to Safari > Advanced and select **Show Develop In Safari Menu**.



BEFORE: The perfection of digital images can sometimes look too clinical.

AFTER: Combine gradient effects and adjustment layers for a more retro look.

Create a retro camera effect

Here's an easy way to create that 'toy camera' look in Photoshop or Elements

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Advanced

TIME NEEDED
20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Adobe Photoshop or Elements

Retro effects are proving rather popular. It's a strong classic look characterised by increased contrast, heightened colour saturation, a strong vignette effect and, sometimes, a colour shift.

Toy cameras have earned something of a cult following as a kind of antidote to the clinical perfection of digital images. Instead of trying to overcome the shortcomings of low-quality cameras, fans of the genre are celebrating them. You can find out more at **www.lomography.com** and even buy retro relics like the Russian Lomo or Chinese Holga. Or, if you don't want to go quite that far, you can experiment with the 'toy camera' look in *Photoshop*.

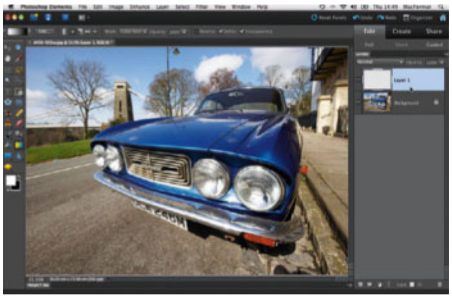
The technique in our walkthrough is quick and simple to apply. The contrast, saturation and vignette effect are created on a single layer; the secret is a choice of blend mode and some skill with the **Gradient** tool.

> *"Toy cameras have earned something of a cult following as an antidote to the perfection of digital"*

You'll probably find that each image requires a slightly different treatment with the gradient tool, hence the use of a blank image layer and manual gradient. This also lets you juggle the strength and apply colour shifts quickly and easily. So why not use a gradient adjustment layer? It involves more fiddling about with the gradient settings, and doesn't really fit in with the quick-and-dirty toy camera philosophy.

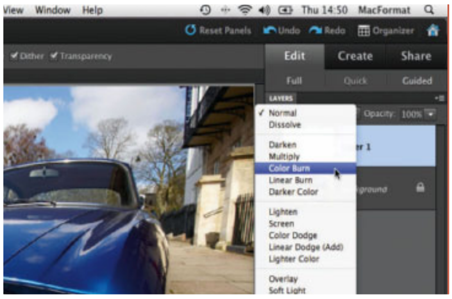
Still, to try it, increase the gradient scale of the adjustment layer to 150% and use dark grey rather than black as the gradient's 'end' colour. This confines the vignette effect to the edges and stops the edges turning completely black. Use the same blend mode and the effect looks similar; though to modify the strength and the tint, you'll have to double-click the adjustment layer, open the **Gradient Editor** and modify the gradient's colour stops.
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Create a retro toy camera effect



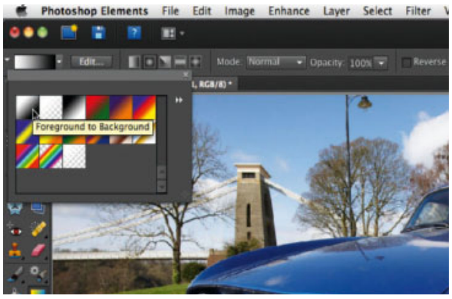
01 Create a blank layer

The effect will be created on a new layer. This leaves the underlying image unaltered, so you can go back if you have to and start again. It offers more flexibility if you want to make adjustments to the strength of the effect, add a colour tint or play with blend modes later on.


Edit
Create
Share
Normal
Dissolve
Darken
Multiply
Color Burn
Linear Burn
Darker Color
Lighten
Screen
Color Dodge
Linear Dodge (Add)
Lighter Color
Overlay
Soft Light

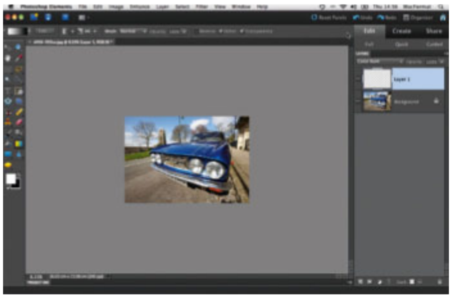
02 Select Color Burn mode

The blend mode of this layer needs to be set to **Color Burn**. This darkens and increases saturation, but it depends on the values of the pixels in the layer. It has no effect while the layer is empty, but that changes when you apply a gradient to it in the next step…


Photoshop Elements
File
Edit
Image
Enhance
Layer
Select
Filter
Foreground to Background

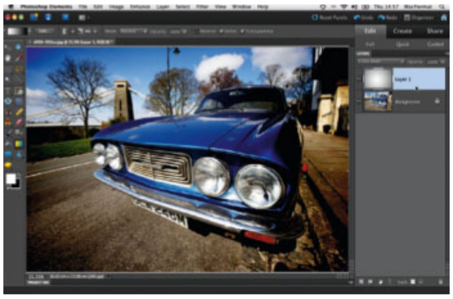
03 Select a gradient

Select the **Gradient** tool, then click on the down-pointing arrow next to the gradients swatch at the left end of the options bar. This shows a list of preset gradients; you want **Foreground to Background**. This uses colours selected at the bottom of the tools palette.



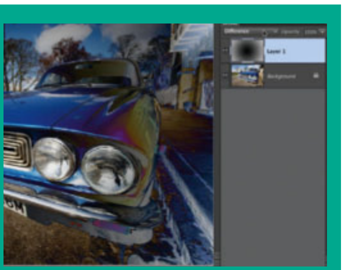
04 Create the gradient

Set the foreground colour to white, the background colour to black, and select the **Radial** gradient button on the options bar. Zoom out so that there's space around the image, click the centre and drag outwards to create the gradient. Drag well outside the image boundaries.



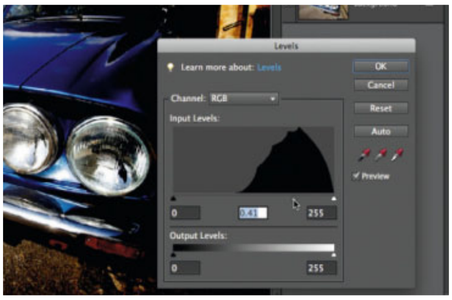
05 The Color Burn effect

The gradient is fairly subtle, but the **Color Burn** mode is very strong, and the effect on the picture is dramatic. If it's not quite right, you can hit ⌘+Z to undo the gradient, then try again, dragging from a different centre point or for a different distance.



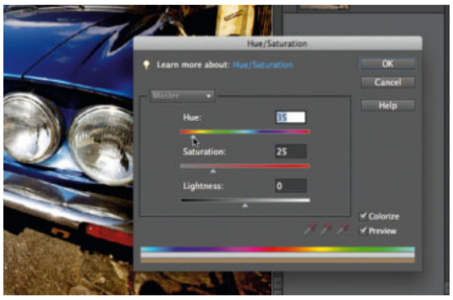
QUICK TIP

To create this semi-solarised effect, change the blend mode to **Difference** and invert (⌘+I) the gradient layer. It's no longer a 'toy camera' effect, but it does show how experimenting with blend modes and layers can generate new results.


Levels
Learn more about: Levels
OK
Cancel
Reset
Auto
Preview
Channel: RGB
Input Levels:
0
0.41
255
Output Levels:
0
255

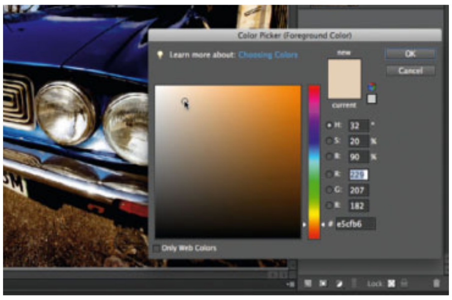
06 Adjust the brightness

There are several ways you can play around with this effect once you've created it. To darken or lighten the image, select the gradient layer, open the **Levels** dialog and move the centre **Gray Point** slider. Move it to the right to darken the layer for a more dramatic effect.


Hue/Saturation
Learn more about: Hue/Saturation
OK
Cancel
Help
Hue:
35
Saturation:
25
Lightness:
0
Colorize
Preview

07 Adjust the tint

Enhance the retro look with a warm tint: select the gradient layer and open the **Hue/Saturation** dialog. Now check the **Colorize** box and choose a hue to apply. Since we're using the **Color Burn** mode, this overlays the colours in the layer below rather than replacing them.


Color Picker (Foreground Color)
Learn more about: Choosing Colors
OK
Cancel
new
current
H: 32
S: 20
B: 90
R: 229
G: 207
B: 182
# e5cfb6
Only Web Colors

08 'Split toning'

For a 'split toning' effect, pick foreground and background colours before you create the gradient. Try a warm colour for the light end of the gradient and a cool colour for the dark end. Or try a **Reflected** rather than a **Radial** gradient to darken the image's top and bottom. ●

Share iPhoto albums on Flickr

Facebook is for friends, while Flickr is more for photo enthusiasts…

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
iPhoto '11 or later

Yahoo's Flickr site is a great way to share photos with people, be it a group of like-minded photographers or the world at large. Facebook's albums are very good, but it puts the social side first, whereas Flickr's designed for photographers right from the start. Many pros use it to publicise their work, and it can be a great source of inspiration if you're looking for ideas.

Setting up a Flickr account is very easy, and if you already have one it only takes a few moments to add your Flickr account to *iPhoto*. Once you've done that, any photos you upload from *iPhoto* are synchronised both ways. You can change titles or descriptions in *iPhoto*, for example, and they're updated on Flickr. Or you can do the same on Flickr, and they're changed in *iPhoto*.

As soon as you make a change to an image in *iPhoto*, the updated version is synced back to Flickr. Things happen slower the other way round, but the way to speed it up is to click away from the Flickr section in *iPhoto*'s source list, then click back again. This prompts *iPhoto* to refresh the contents, and any changes in Flickr should now be applied.

What you do need to bear in mind if you make changes on Flickr, is that you'll be modifying the metadata in your *iPhoto* images when the changes are synced back to the Mac. If you change titles, descriptions, keywords or location data on Flicker, they'll be changed in *iPhoto* too.

> *"As soon as you make a change to one of your images in iPhoto, the updated version is synced back to Flickr"*

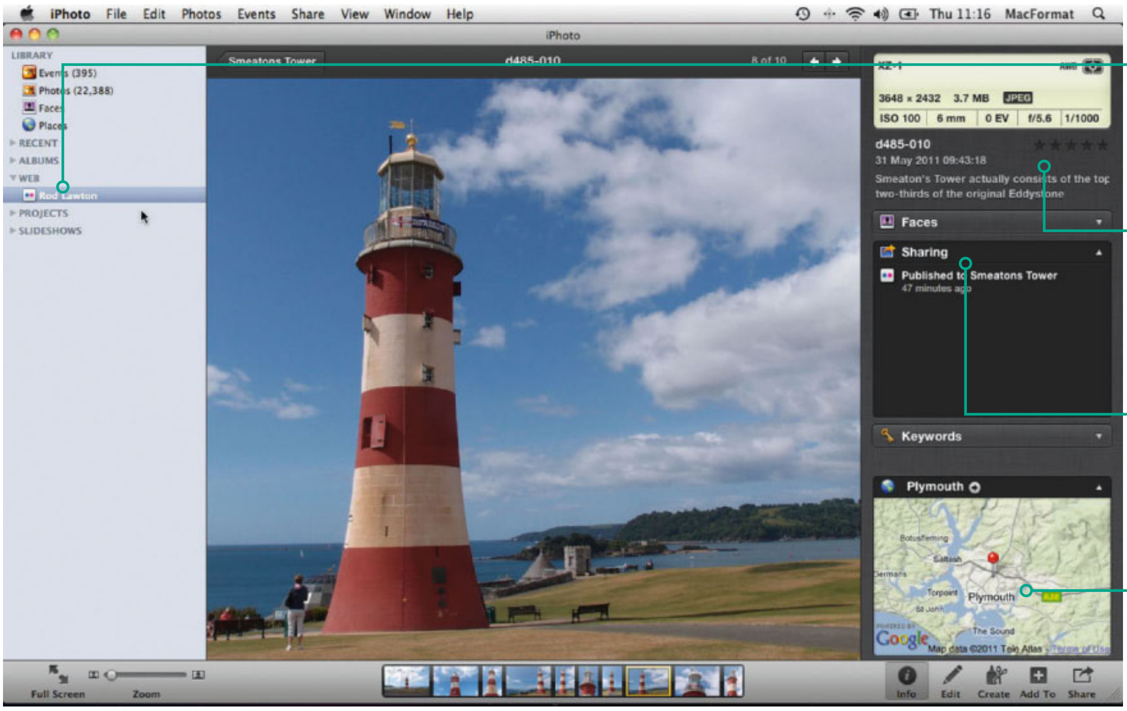
If you want to create special 'Flickr' versions of your pictures and leave the originals unaltered, you'll need to create duplicates. (To do this, select the photo or photos and hit ⌘+D.)

There's one more thing. *iPhoto* will download and display all your existing Flickr sets, even if they weren't uploaded from *iPhoto*. It's a really nice touch, but there are limitations. The first is that *iPhoto* can only download them at the standard Flickr resolution, and the other is that you can only browse them, not edit them.

There are third-party *iPhoto* Flickr add-ons that work very well and could be ideal if you're using an earlier version of *iPhoto*. The Flickr tools in *iPhoto '11*, though, are pretty good, so if you have a Flickr account or you've ever thought of creating one, now's the time to try them out.

Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Manage your Flickr Sets


iPhoto
File
Edit
Photos
Events
Share
View
Window
Help
Thu 11:16
MacFormat
LIBRARY
Events (395)
Photos (22,388)
Faces
Places
RECENT
ALBUMS
WEB
Rod Lawton
PROJECTS
SLIDESHOWS
Smeatons Tower
d485-010
8 of 10
XZ-1
3648 × 2432
3.7 MB
JPEG
ISO 100
6 mm
0 EV
f/5.6
1/1000
d485-010
31 May 2011 09:43:18

Smeaton's Tower actually consists of the top two-thirds of the original Eddystone

Faces
Sharing
Published to Smeatons Tower
47 minutes ago
Keywords
Plymouth
Saltash
Torpoint
Plymouth
The Sound
Google
Map data ©2011 Tele Atlas
Full Screen
Zoom
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share

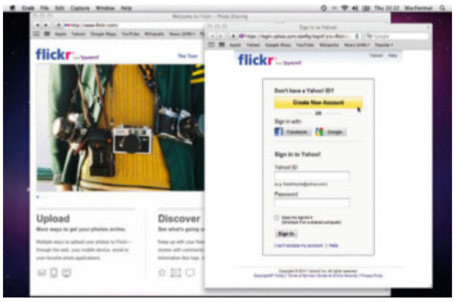
Flickr Sets
You can see all your Flickr Sets by clicking this button in the source list.

Titles and more
Titles and descriptions entered in *iPhoto* sync to your Flickr images.

Sharing info
Sharing expands to show where your photo's been uploaded.

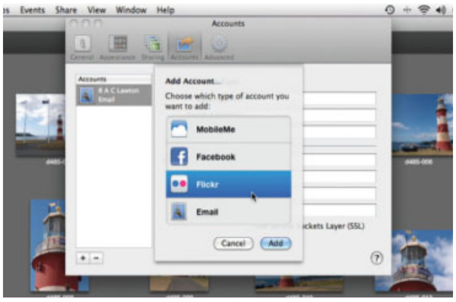
Places
Places in *iPhoto* translate into map locations on Flickr.

HOW TO / Create photo sets on Flickr



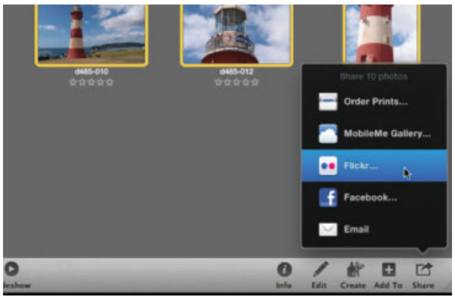
01 Set up a Flickr account

If you don't have a Flickr account yet, you'll need to set one up at **www.flickr.com**. It only takes a couple of minutes, and it's completely free. There is a pro version that offers unlimited storage, ad-free browsing and more, but the free version is adequate here.


Add Account...
Choose which type of account you want to add:
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Email
Cancel
Add

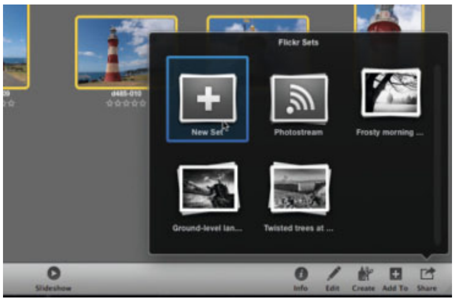
02 Add account in iPhoto

Back in *iPhoto*, you need to add your Flickr account: do this via the **Accounts** tab in the *iPhoto* preferences. Click the '+' button at the bottom of your list of accounts, and select Flickr from the drop-down list. Follow the short series of steps to confirm.


Share 10 photos
Order Prints...
MobileMe Gallery...
Flickr...
Facebook...
Email
Info
Edit
Create
Add To
Share

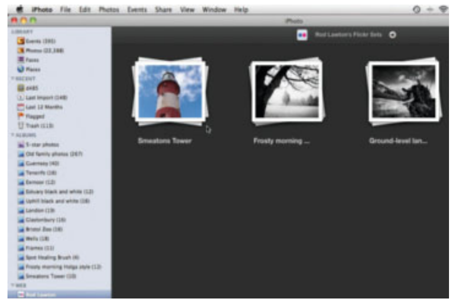
03 Choose your photos

Now to select the photos you want to publish on Flickr. You can create a new album if it helps or you can select photos in existing albums. Next, click the **Share** button, at the bottom right of the *iPhoto* window, and choose Flickr from the list.


Flickr Sets
New Set
Photostream
Frosty morning ...
Ground-level lan...
Twisted trees at ...

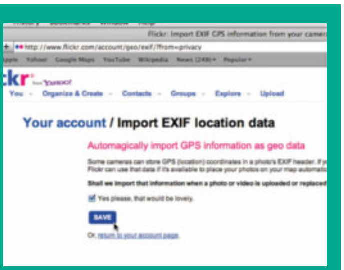
04 Upload options

iPhoto now gives you a series of choices. You can upload the selected photos to an existing Flickr 'Set', add them to your 'Photostream' (Flickr's list of photos you've uploaded) or create a new Set. Once done, *iPhoto* processes and uploads the pictures.


Smeatons Tower
Frosty morning ...
Ground-level lan...

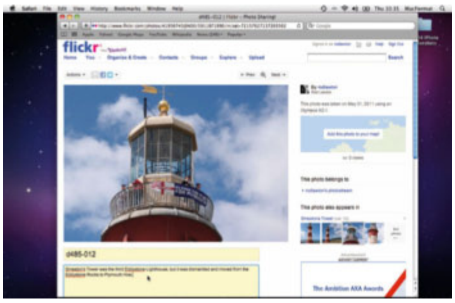
05 Viewing your Sets

View your new Set and any other previously uploaded Flickr Sets by clicking the Flickr icon in the Web section of the source list. *iPhoto* will download and display Sets created in the past, but they will be at the standard Flickr resolution and you won't be able to edit them.


Your account / Import EXIF location data
Automagically import GPS information as geo data
Yes please, that would be lovely.
SAVE

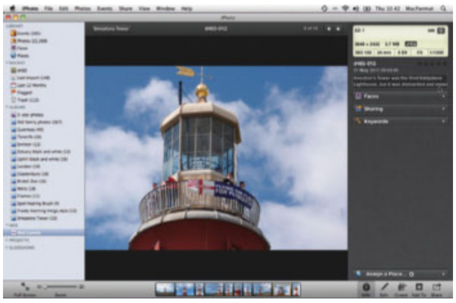
QUICK TIP

For *iPhoto's* Places to work, open your Flickr account settings in your browser, select **Privacy** and **Permissions**, and scroll down to **Defaults for new uploads**. Here, you'll need to change the **Import EXIF location data** setting to **Yes**.



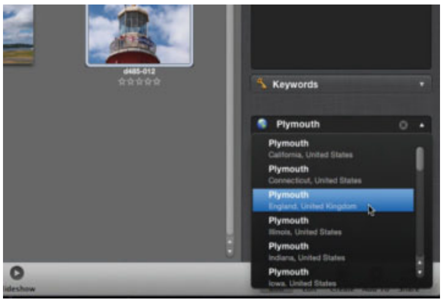
06 Changes in Flickr

When you upload to Flickr from *iPhoto*, your images are synchronised so that any changes you make in Flickr will automatically update your images in *iPhoto*. For example, if we add a caption in Flickr, it will be downloaded and added to the picture in *iPhoto*.



07 Changes in iPhoto

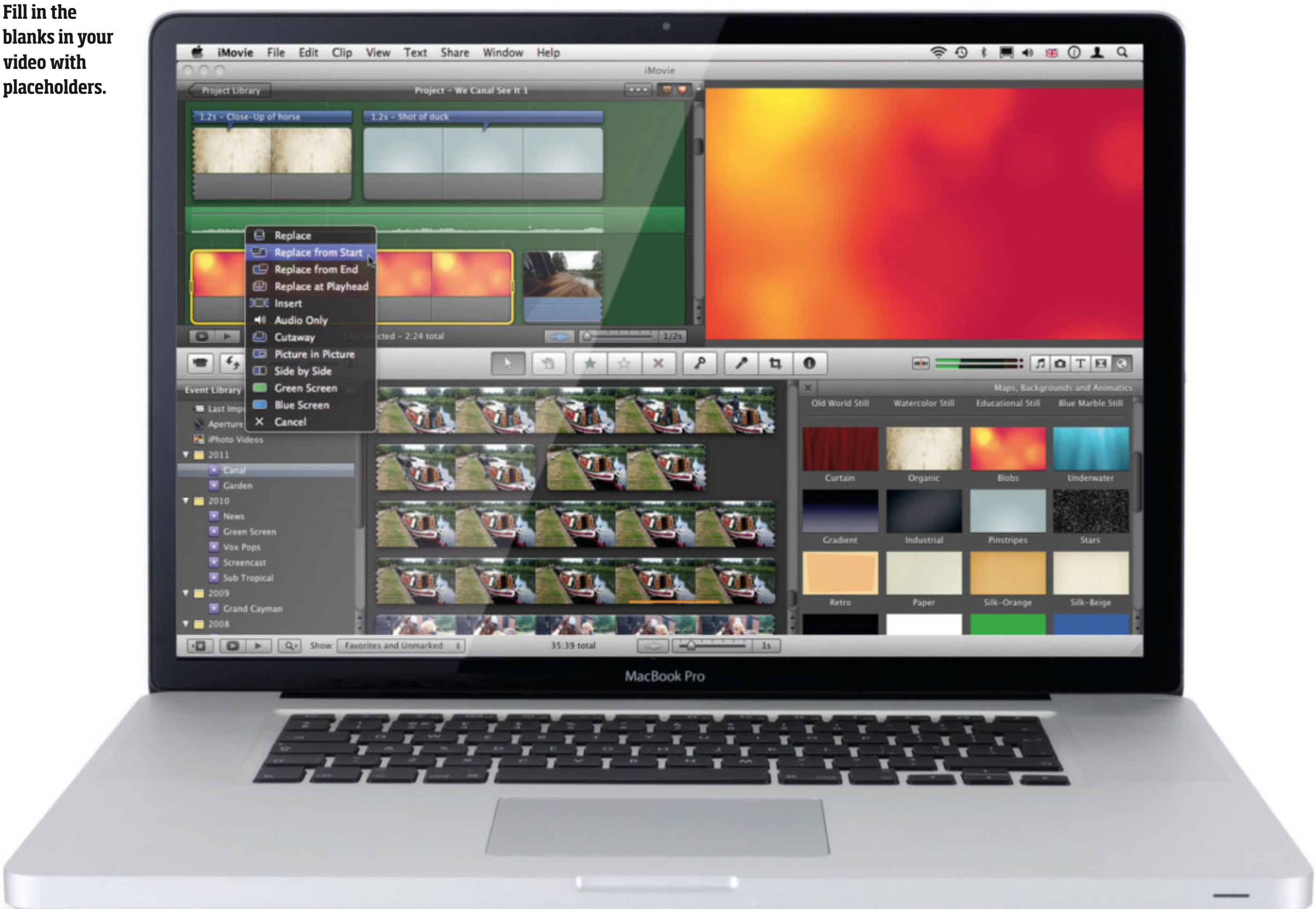
Here's a caption applied on Flickr which now appears in *iPhoto*. (Do remember that changing info on Flickr will change the original files in *iPhoto*.) It works the other way, too. Add descriptions (or keywords) in *iPhoto*, and it will sync the updated file with Flickr.


Keywords
Plymouth
Plymouth
California, United States
Plymouth
Connecticut, United States
Plymouth
England, United Kingdom
Plymouth
Illinois, United States
Plymouth
Indiana, United States
Plymouth
Iowa, United States

08 Synchronising place info

This works for Places, too. Add them in *iPhoto* and they're translated into map locations in Flickr. Or, place photos on a map in Flickr, and *iPhoto* will treat these as Places. (But see the Quick Tip for information on what you need to do in your Flickr account details.) ●

Fill in the blanks in your video with placeholders.


iMovie File Edit Clip View Text Share Window Help
Project Library
Project – We Canal See It 1
1.2s – Close-Up of horse
1.2s – Shot of duck
Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Side by Side
Green Screen
Blue Screen
Cancel
Event Library
Maps, Backgrounds and Animatics
Old World Still
Watercolor Still
Educational Still
Blue Marble Still
Curtain
Organic
Blobs
Underwater
Gradient
Industrial
Pinstripes
Stars
Retro
Paper
Silk-Orange
Silk-Beige
35:39 total
MacBook Pro

Use generic clips as placeholders

If you don't have the right clip but timing is crucial, use a generic one instead

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
iMovie '11 version 9.0.2 or later, a basic understanding of the interface, some clips stored in an event or your photo library

Making movies isn't an easy process. Sure, you can point a camera and upload what you shot to YouTube, but if you want to apply a little more finesse, you need to turn to programs like *iMovie*. Despite how much time Apple's engineers have spent making the process as easy as possible even for novices to master, you can't get away from the fact that editing requires a little planning.

Since you're not a professional, you shouldn't feel like you have to do too much work just to produce a home movie. However, there are times when you're editing that you realise a specific clip is missing from your list and there's still time to get that shot you need. But what do you do in the meantime? Simple – you use a placeholder clip.

They all reside in *iMovie*'s **Maps and Backgrounds** section. You need them primarily because you can't create gaps in your storyline: *iMovie* doesn't allow you to do it since each clip must follow on from each other. These backgrounds are colourful enough so that you can see them easily in your timeline's thumbnails and not forget that you haven't actually shot those scenes (they're also useful when setting a project in time to music).

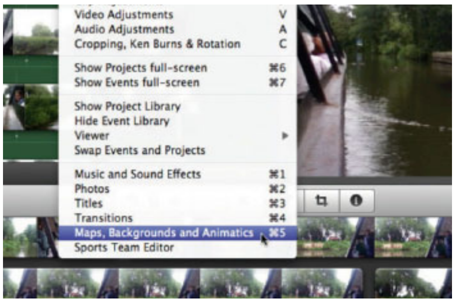
> *"You need placeholder clips because you can't create gaps in your storyline; iMovie doesn't allow it"*

If you're shooting as you edit over a few days, you could write notes to remind yourself what you should replace those placeholders with. But a piece of paper can easily get lost, so how about using *iMovie*'s titling tools instead? Even better, you could add a voiceover to describe what should be happening during those segments.

This tutorial will show you how to use backgrounds as placeholders, letting you create your movie's overall shape and then replace them with actual clips later on. So open up an existing project or create a new one and we'll be ready to begin…

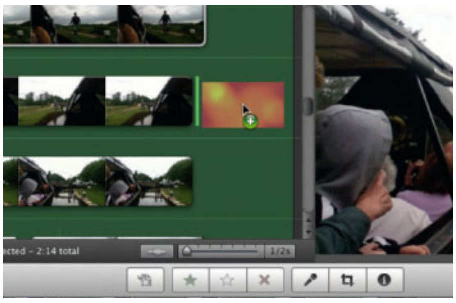
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Use placeholder clips in your iMovie project


Video Adjustments V
Audio Adjustments A
Cropping, Ken Burns & Rotation C
Show Projects full-screen ⌘6
Show Events full-screen ⌘7
Show Project Library
Hide Event Library
Viewer
Swap Events and Projects
Music and Sound Effects ⌘1
Photos ⌘2
Titles ⌘3
Transitions ⌘4
Maps, Backgrounds and Animatics ⌘5
Sports Team Editor

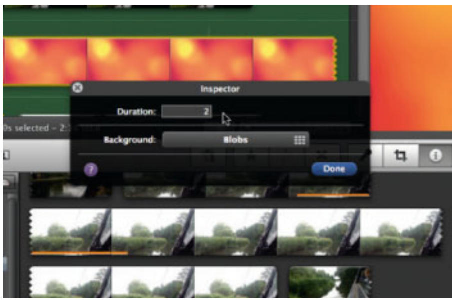
01 Reveal Placeholders

Open your project and navigate to a section you need to alter. It's time to add some placeholder clips. Go to Window > Maps, Backgrounds and Animatics (you can also use the ⌘+5 keyboard shortcut or click on the globe icon, far right of the toolbar).


cted – 2:14 total

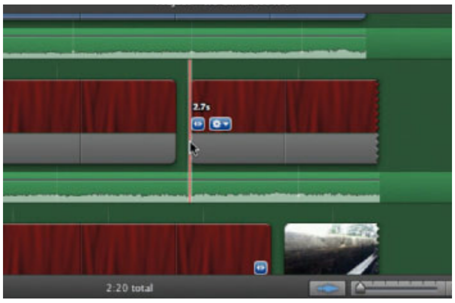
02 Add a background

Scroll past the Map section to reveal all the backgrounds you can use. If you're going to need more than one side by side, make sure you'll be previewing your project (especially useful when working in time to music). Drag one onto your project.


Inspector
Duration: 2
Background: Blobs
Done

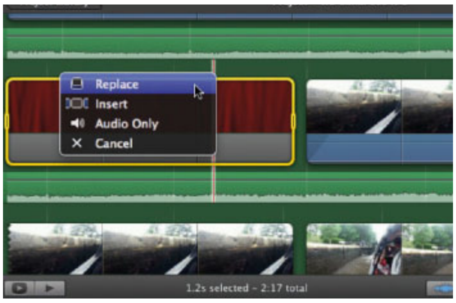
03 Adjust the clip

By default, the background is four seconds long. To alter its duration, mouse over it to reveal a cog wheel button. Click it and choose **Clip Adjustments**. A small inspector window is revealed from which you can alter the clip's length. Type a number and hit ↩ to set it.


2.7s
2:20 total

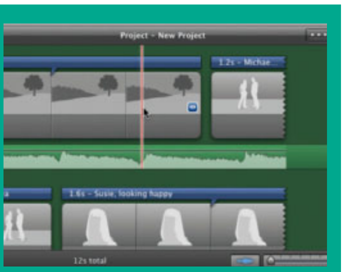
04 Split the Placeholder

If the length you need depends on the audio running beneath your clips, mouse over them to hear the music. Once you're at the point you're after, hit ⇧+⌘+S on the keyboard to cut your background clip at that location. Then select and delete the unwanted portion.


Replace
Insert
Audio Only
Cancel
1.2s selected – 2:17 total

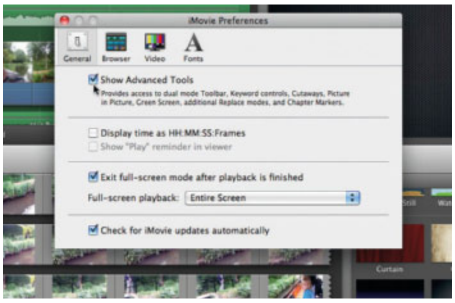
05 Drag over

To replace this placeholder clip with an actual one, select a portion from an event. Drag it over the placeholder and release the mouse to reveal a menu. Select **Replace**. The new clip's duration takes precedence so if you spent time getting timing right, this isn't a good solution.


Project – New Project
1.2s – Michae
1.6s – Susie, looking happy
12s total

QUICK TIP

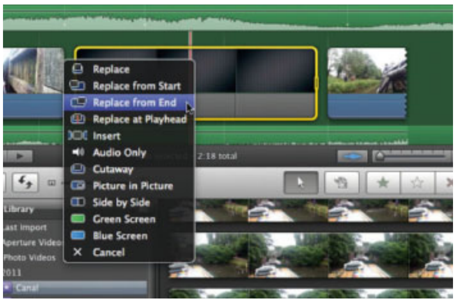
The Animatic clips used to build trailers can also be placeholders. They can help you create a basic storyboard to help you see how your story flows. You can use titles over these clips to make it easier to see what should happen in each shot.


iMovie Preferences
General
Browser
Video
Fonts
Curtain

☑ Show Advanced Tools
Provides access to dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.
☐ Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
☐ Show "Play" reminder in viewer
☑ Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback: Entire Screen
☑ Check for iMovie updates automatically

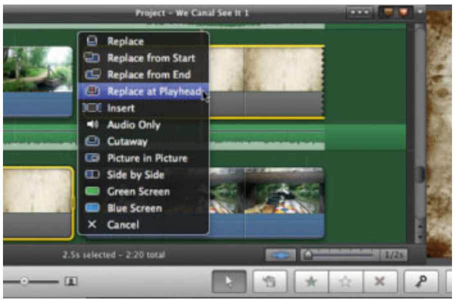
06 Advanced Tools

There's a better alternative that will make using placeholders much more useful: go to iMovie > Preferences (or use the ⌘+, keyboard shortcut). Make sure the **General** tab is selected (bearing a switch icon) and click on the **Show Advanced Tools** tick box.


Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Side by Side
Green Screen
Blue Screen
Cancel
2:18 total

07 From Start or End

When you drag a clip over a placeholder (or any other clip), you'll get more options: **Replace from Start** uses the first frame from your new clip as the start and extends it to match the placeholder's length; **Replace from End** uses the last frame and works backwards.


Project – We Canal See It 1
Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Side by Side
Green Screen
Blue Screen
Cancel
2.5s selected – 2:20 total

08 At the Playhead

Replace at Playhead is more complex: preview the clip you want to use frame by frame as you mouse over it. Drag it to set the frame you see. Release it over the placeholder. *iMovie* will extend the clip before and after to match the placeholder's duration. ●

Step up to Final Cut Pro X

With so many features available, why not move your iMovie projects into it?

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
iMovie '11 version 9.0 or later, Final Cut Pro X version 1.0 or later, at least one project built in iMovie

There's no doubting *iMovie* is a fantastic program to edit your home movies and give you a taste for building a story with images. In the past, if you felt like having more powerful tools, you could upgrade to *Final Cut Express*. But although that program had more in common with *Final Cut Pro*, making it easy to upgrade further if you needed to, the transition from *iMovie* was extremely difficult. Why? Because you'd have to learn a whole new interface along with a myriad of new features.

All this changed in June with the release of *Final Cut Pro X*, which is designed to replace all of Apple's advanced video editing applications from *Final Cut Express* onwards. This is causing a lot of backlash from the professionals at the moment, but it's an amazing opportunity for up-and-coming, enthusiastic *iMovie* editors to improve their skills and films for very little money – compared to how much such programs cost just a few weeks ago.

Just like Apple did with the very first version of *Final Cut Pro* back in 1999, it's lowered the barrier of entry by offering incredibly powerful tools for only £180. But that's as long as your Mac is running Mac OS X 10.6.7 or above and has the Mac App Store installed, since it's only available as a digital download. Yes, it's more expensive than *Final Cut Express* was, but that program hadn't been updated for over three years and left a lot to be desired. (For instance, its inability to understand modern codecs like AVCHD – the common format for high-definition camcorders.) It even had problems with clips taken with an iPhone.

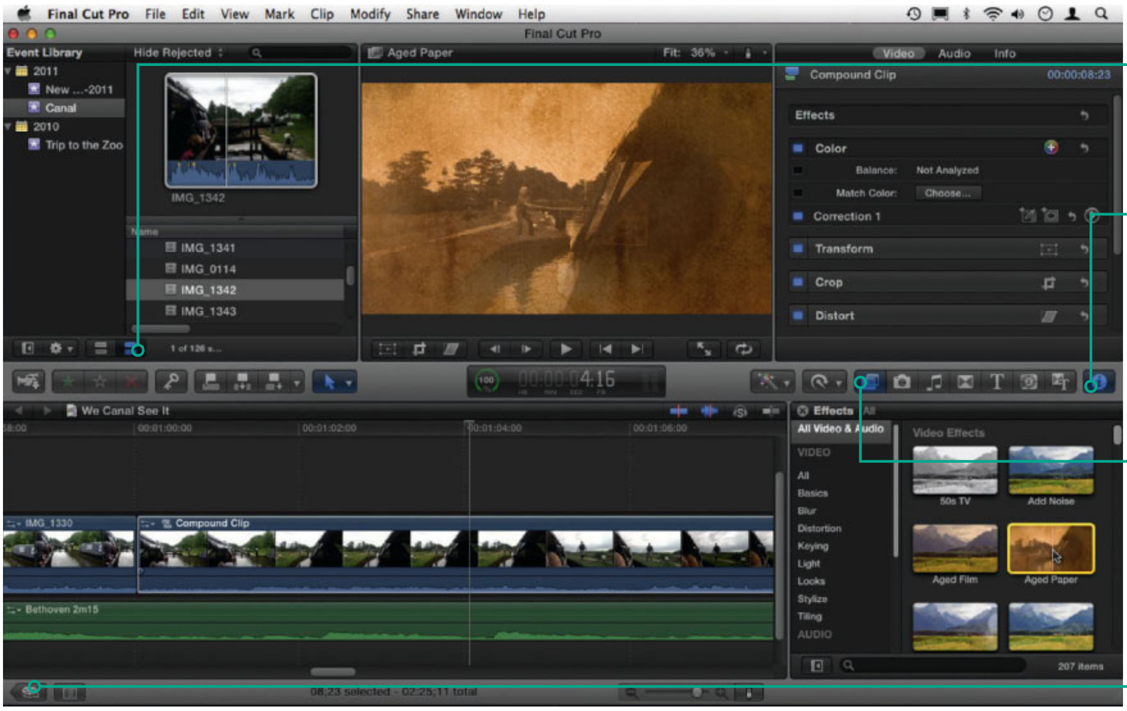
> *"Apple has lowered the barrier of entry by offering incredibly powerful tools for only £180"*

With *Final Cut Pro X*, you get a very familiar interface – at first glance, it could be mistaken for *iMovie*, but you don't have to use it for long to notice how much more you can achieve. There's a highly versatile timeline, more powerful effects and image correction tools.

Moving your *iMovie* projects to *Final Cut* isn't seamless though: Maps aren't compatible and will not be transferred. Also, some effects won't make it, but it's a simple process to add them again.

This tutorial will guide you through the basics of importing an *iMovie* project and finding your way around.
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Find your way around Final Cut's interface


Final Cut Pro
File
Edit
View
Mark
Clip
Modify
Share
Window
Help
Event Library
Hide Rejected
2011
New ...-2011
Canal
2010
Trip to the Zoo
IMG_1342
IMG_1341
IMG_0114
IMG_1342
IMG_1343
1 of 126 s...
Aged Paper
Fit: 36%
Video
Audio
Info
Compound Clip
00:00:08:23
Effects
Color
Balance:
Not Analyzed
Match Color:
Choose...
Correction 1
Transform
Crop
Distort
We Canal See It
IMG_1330
Compound Clip
Bethoven 2m15
Effects
All Video & Audio
Video Effects
VIDEO
All
Basics
Blur
Distortion
Keying
Light
Looks
Stylize
Tiling
AUDIO
50s TV
Add Noise
Aged Film
Aged Paper
207 items
08:23 selected - 02:25:11 total

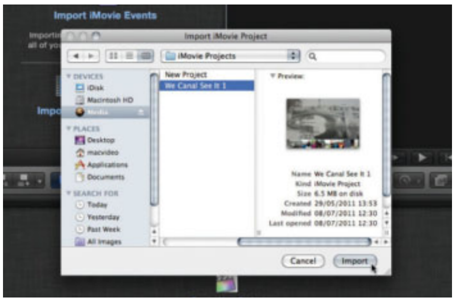
Browser choices
If you'd rather see your available clips as a list instead of thumbnails, click on this button.

The Inspector
The Inspector reveals the top-right section to alter parameters.

Multiple effects
Click this button to add an effect. You can add multiple ones to a clip.

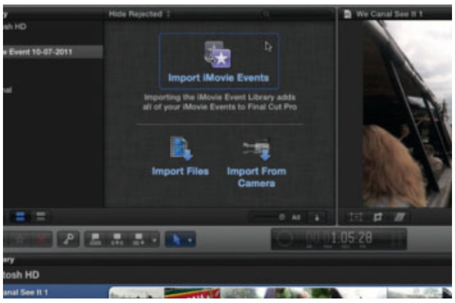
All your projects
The timeline will show your imported *iMovie* project, and others.

HOW TO / Import and start editing your iMovie project


Import iMovie Events
Import iMovie Project
iMovie Projects
DEVICES
iDisk
Macintosh HD
Media
PLACES
Desktop
macvideo
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
New Project
We Canal See It 1
Preview:
Name We Canal See It 1
Kind iMovie Project
Size 6.5 MB on disk
Created 29/05/2011 13:53
Modified 08/07/2011 12:30
Last opened 08/07/2011 12:30
Cancel
Import

01 Get a project

If this is the first time you've launched *Final Cut Pro X* it's time to bring in your work. Go to File > Import > iMovie Project. This opens the folder where all your projects are saved on your hard drive. If your projects are on other drives, you'll have to locate them manually.

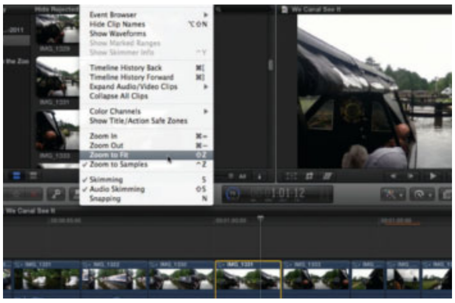

Hide Rejected
We Canal See It 1
Event 10-07-2011
Import iMovie Events
Importing the iMovie Event Library adds all of your iMovie Events to Final Cut Pro
Import Files
Import From Camera
1:05:28

02 Grab Your Media

This action also places all the clips used in your project in the browser, top-left of the screen. To get additional media, go to File > Import > iMovie Event Library to grab all other clips from your existing events. Be aware though that this process duplicates your files.

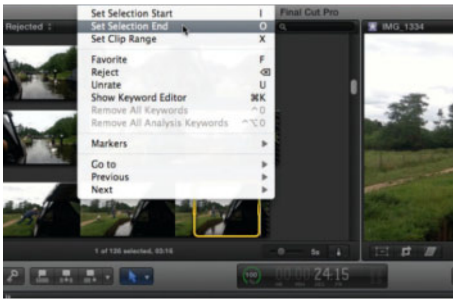
QUICK TIP

If you don't like the idea of *Final Cut* importing all the media from your *iMovie* events, you can drag just the ones you need from the *Finder* onto the **Event** library, or even straight onto your timeline. This works for video, audio and even still images.


Event Browser
Hide Clip Names
Show Waveforms
Timeline History Back
Timeline History Forward
Expand Audio/Video Clips
Collapse All Clips
Color Channels
Show Title/Action Safe Zones
Zoom In
Zoom Out
Zoom to Fit
Zoom to Samples
Skimming
Audio Skimming
Snapping

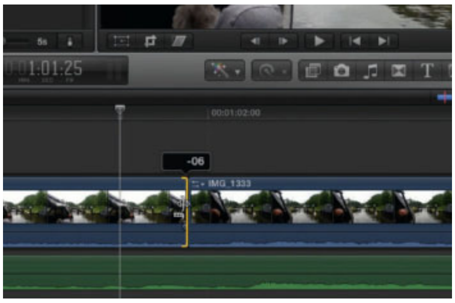
03 Zoom in and out

Double-click on your project. This shows the timeline stretching to the right. Zoom into it for close-up work with the ⌘+= keyboard shortcut; to zoom out, use ⌘+-. To make your edit fit the screen, use ⇧-Z (or use the menu bar's **View** menu to see all commands).


Set Selection Start
Set Selection End
Set Clip Range
Favorite
Reject
Unrate
Show Keyword Editor
Remove All Keywords
Remove All Analysis Keywords
Markers
Go to
Previous
Next
Final Cut Pro
IMG_1334
24:15

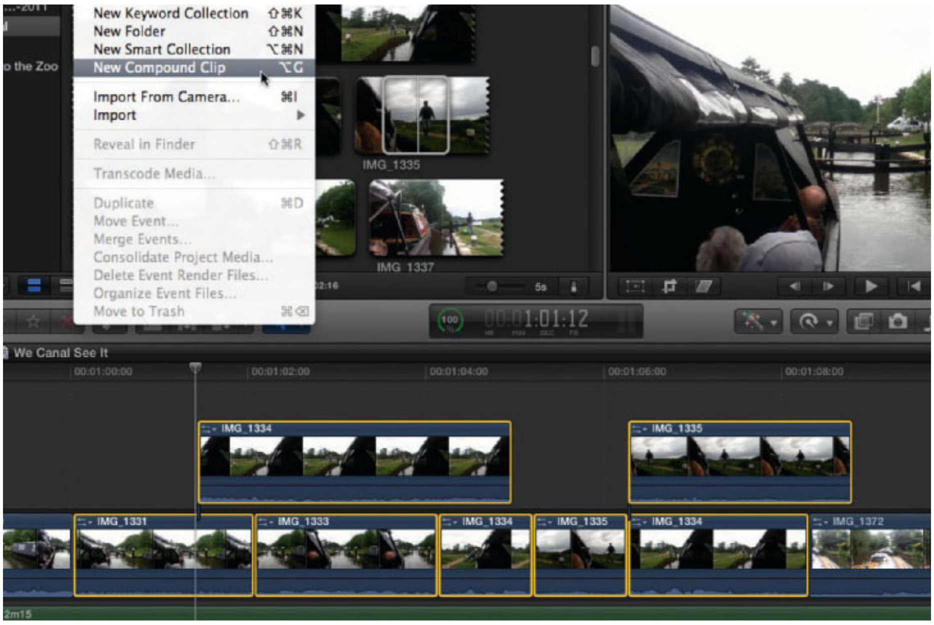
04 Selecting media

To select a clip, skim its thumbnail in the browser and drag the cursor over it to make a selection, just like you can with *iMovie*. You can also use the left and right arrow keys to move one frame at a time, and the I and O keys to set **In** and **Out** points for more precise selections.


1:01:25
-06
IMG_1333

05 Trimming in the timeline

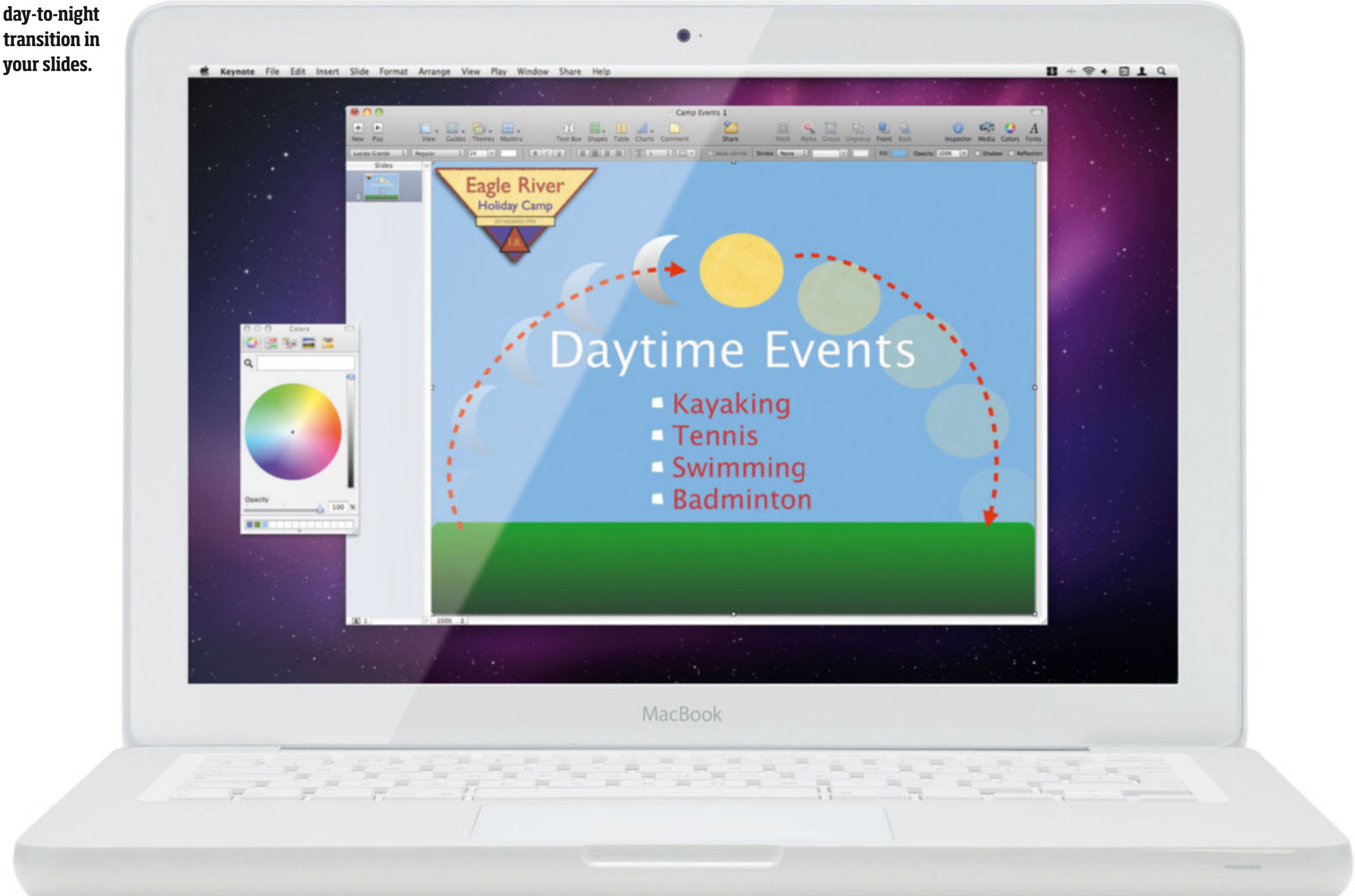
To add a clip, drag the selected portion onto the timeline. As you near other clips, they make room for it. You can trim clips easily: move the cursor over an edit point. If it's slightly to the left, you'll affect the left clip as you drag. Do so to add or remove frames from that clip.


New Keyword Collection ⇧⌘K
New Folder ⇧⌘N
New Smart Collection ⌥⌘N
New Compound Clip ⌥G
Import From Camera... ⌘I
Import
Reveal in Finder ⇧⌘R
Transcode Media...
Duplicate ⌘D
Move Event...
Merge Events...
Consolidate Project Media...
Delete Event Render Files...
Organize Event Files...
Move to Trash
IMG_1335
IMG_1337
1:01:12
We Canal See It
IMG_1334
IMG_1335
IMG_1331
IMG_1333
IMG_1334
IMG_1335
IMG_1334
IMG_1372

06 Multiple Layers

You're not limited to working on a single layer: drag another clip to the timeline and place it above the others. This offers a lot of flexibility as you experiment with editing options (to hide a clip and reveal the one beneath it, select it and hit the V key or go to Clip > Disable). Any clip above the first layer is linked to clips beneath it by a line. As you drag the bottom clip, the top ones move with it. This can lead to complex-looking edits, but if you want to simplify things, you can select a section then go to File > New Compound Clip to collapse all selected clips into a single layer, making it easier to add an effect to all clips at once, for instance. To undo this action, go to Clip > Break Apart Clip Items. ●

Create a moving day-to-night transition in your slides.



Create animations in Keynote

Use custom paths to create animated objects in your presentation slides

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Advanced

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
iWork '09 or later

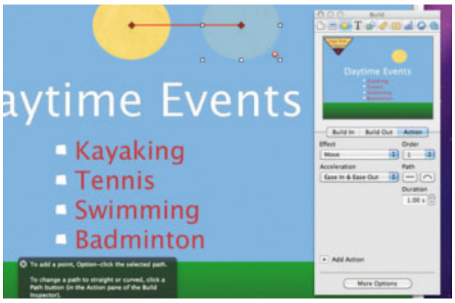
While *Keynote* is a particularly easy piece of software to use, its simplicity belies some powerful animation features. While most transitions between and during your slides can be set to run automatically, the **Move** option, found under the Inspector's **Build** tab, can be adjusted to perform a range of unique functions. By telling *Keynote* that you want to move a specific object on a slide, you're provided with a selection of options including setting the exact path it should move along. Once you've created a path you can manipulate it to determine how your shape will move, whether it's a straight line or a series of curves to send it looping across your slide.

In this tutorial, we will be moving two shapes along a curved path as part of a slide transition that suggests a move from day to night. The first object represents the sun while the second is the moon. By moving the sun shape out of view along a curved path while introducing the moon shape on a similar curved path, we can provide the illusion of day turning to night as our slide's content changes. By creating a curve in our paths, the sun and the moon look like they're orbiting the slide; we'll even explain how to set a transition to darken the background of your slide to further enhance the effect. The end result is a smooth day-to-night animation that you could go on to use in any applicable slideshow.

> *"We'll be moving two shapes along a curved path as part of a slide transition portraying night following day"*

To follow this technique, start with a *Keynote* project you've already created with multiple objects on it, or start from scratch and create objects as needed. You could even copy our example, which is made up of text and simple coloured shapes. Once mastered, this is a trick you'll be sure to use again to add some spice to your *Keynote* presentations.
Ben Harvell

HOW TO / Animate objects with paths in Keynote


aytime Events
Kayaking
Tennis
Swimming
Badminton
Daytime Events
Build In
Build Out
Action
Add Action
More Options

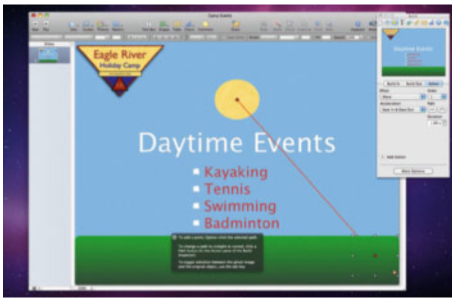
To add a point, Option-click the selected path.

To change a path to straight or curved, click a Path button (in the Action pane of the Build Inspector).

Effect: Move
Order: 1
Acceleration: Ease In & Ease Out
Path
Duration: 1.00 s

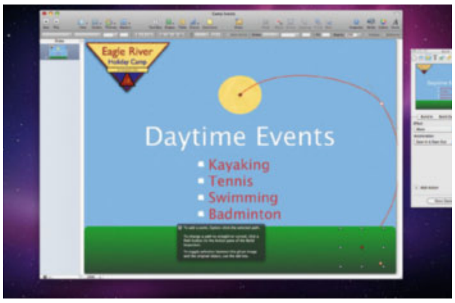
01 Select your object

Here's our first slide with the sun positioned at the top. Click on the object you want to move and select the **Build** tab from the Inspector. Click the **Action** tab and select **Move** from the **Effect** menu. Now select **Ease In & Ease Out** from the **Acceleration** menu.


Eagle River
Holiday Camp
Daytime Events
Kayaking
Tennis
Swimming
Badminton

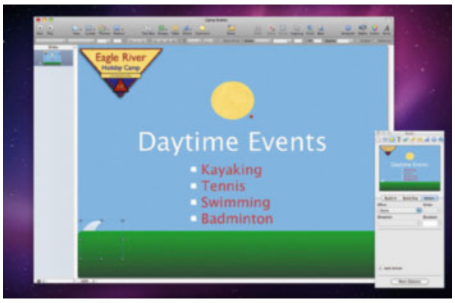
02 Set the end point

Click the red diamond that now appears next to your object to show the end point, an opaque version of the shape that displays where your object will move to. Drag your shape to the lower right of your slide so it will move off the screen.


Eagle River
Holiday Camp
Daytime Events
Kayaking
Tennis
Swimming
Badminton

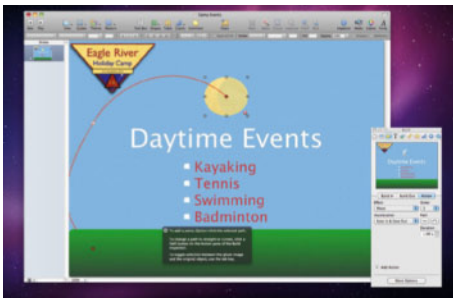
03 Introduce a curve

Head back to the Inspector and click the curved line below the **Path** section. The shape's path will now turn into a curve and a preview will be shown. You can now click the curve in the main *Keynote* window to adjust its position and use the handles to adjust the curve's shape.


Eagle River
Holiday Camp
Daytime Events
Kayaking
Tennis
Swimming
Badminton

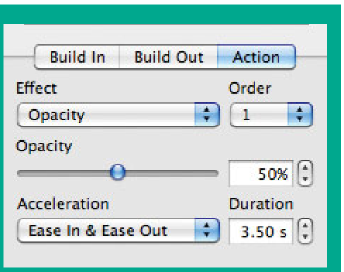
04 Second shape

Now the sun has set on our slide, we need to introduce the moon shape so that it appears while the sun moves. Start by selecting your second shape and position it somewhere out of view. We've hidden it behind the grass shape at the bottom of our slide as a start point.


Eagle River
Holiday Camp
Daytime Events
Kayaking
Tennis
Swimming
Badminton

05 Plot another curve

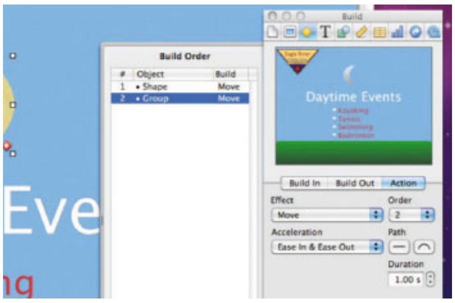
With your second object selected, head to the Inspector's **Build** menu and select **Move** from the **Effect** menu under the **Action** tab. Create a curved path as we did in Step 3 but this time move the shape to the middle of your slide. Adjust the curve position and shape as needed.


Build In
Build Out
Action

Effect: Opacity
Order: 1
Opacity: 50%
Acceleration: Ease In & Ease Out
Duration: 3.50 s

QUICK TIP

Each movement you add to your slide can be adjusted from the Inspector and you should fine-tune as you go in order to perfect the animation. One key setting you should take note of is **Duration**. It times the animation to run smoothly.


Eve
ng
Build
Daytime Events
Build In
Build Out
Action

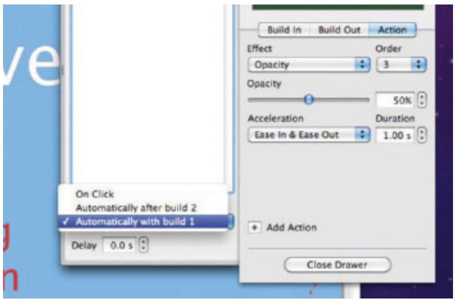
Build Order

#	Object	Build
1	• Shape	Move
2	• Group	Move

Effect: Move
Order: 2
Acceleration: Ease In & Ease Out
Path
Duration: 1.00 s

06 At the same time

To make both shapes move at once, select the second shape and click **More Options** at the bottom of the Inspector's **Build** screen under the **Action** tab. Under **Build Order**, select the second object and choose **Automatically with Build 1** from the **Start Build** menu.

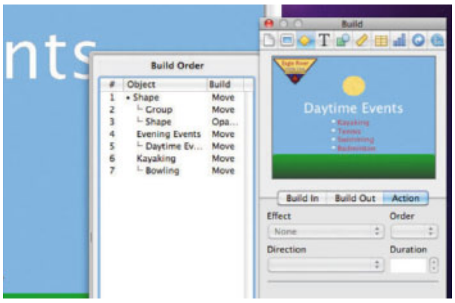

ve
Build In
Build Out
Action
Add Action
Close Drawer

Effect: Opacity
Order: 3
Opacity: 50%
Acceleration: Ease In & Ease Out
Duration: 1.00 s

On Click
Automatically after build 2
✓ Automatically with build 1
Delay: 0.0 s

07 Darken the background

For completion, select the background colour (which is on top of a black background on our slide), and select **Opacity** from the **Effect** menu. Use the slider to set the opacity to 50% and set the effect to take place with the first animation using the **Build Order** pane.


nts
Build
Daytime Events
Build In
Build Out
Action

Build Order

#	Object	Build
1	• Shape	Move
2	└ Group	Move
3	└ Shape	Opa...
4	Evening Events	Move
5	└ Daytime Ev...	Move
6	Kayaking	Move
7	└ Bowling	Move

Effect: None
Order
Direction
Duration

08 Final adjustments

Now that both shapes move together you can adjust the rest of the slide to reflect the changes. Here we have updated the text to cover evening events as the moon moves into its position at the top of the slide; use the **Move** actions from the Inspector's **Build** tab. ●

Master Reeder for Mac

Tricks and tips for working with the Mac's best RSS reader

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.6.6+, Reeder for Mac, a Google Reader account

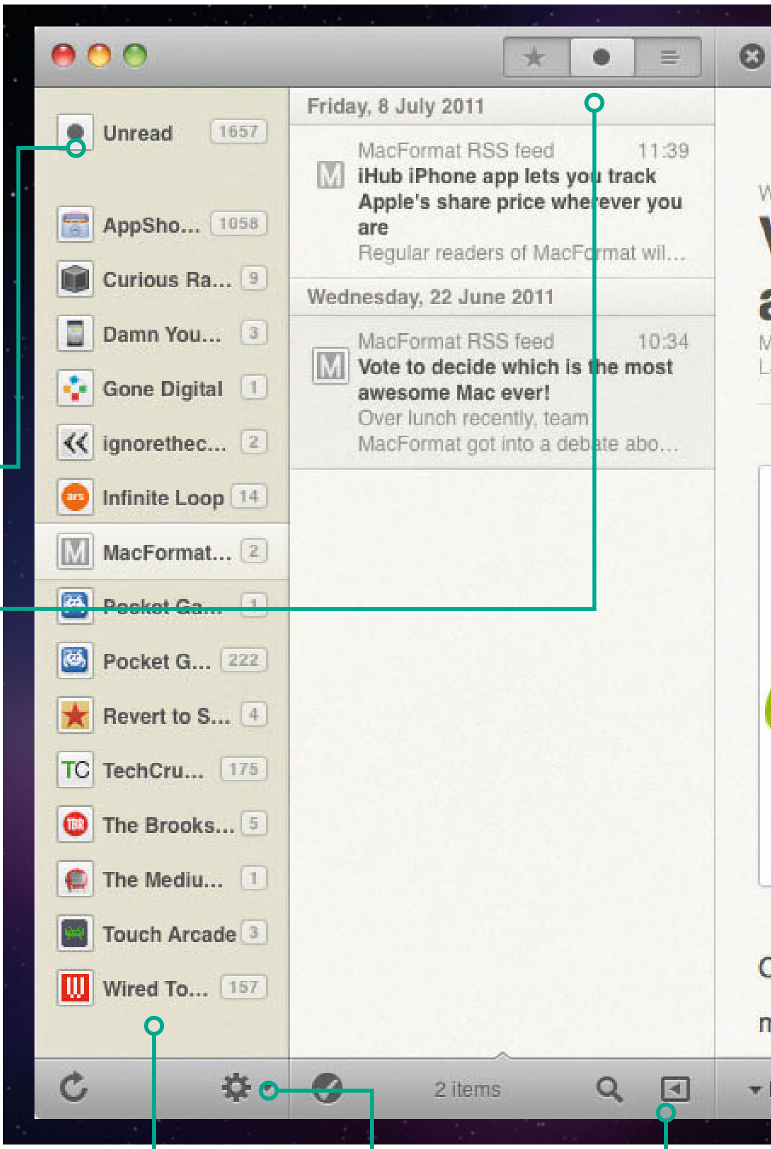
RSS is an extremely useful technology that drives a lot of communication between online services. It enables you to subscribe to feeds and have news you care about delivered directly to an RSS client. *Reeder*, £5.99 from the Mac App Store, is the Mac's best RSS client and was a MacFormat Choice Award winner last issue.

Reeder uses Google Reader for subscriptions and syncing, and will ask for your account details on first launch. Create a free account if you've not got one; to start doing so, click Create an Account….

Craig Grannell

Unread count

The best view to use in *Reeder* is Unread Items, which only shows articles you've not yet read. Select the 'unread' option in the left-most pane to list all unread items, or select a feed to only see its articles. In Preferences > General, you can also set the unread count to display on *Reeder*'s Dock icon, either as a badge or embedded in the icon itself. (Note: when unread items exceed 999, the icon option will only show '….')



Unread 1657
AppSho... 1058
Curious Ra... 9
Damn You... 3
Gone Digital 1
ignorethec... 2
Infinite Loop 14
MacFormat... 2
Pocket Ga... 1
Pocket G... 222
Revert to S... 4
TechCru... 175
The Brooks... 5
The Mediu... 1
Touch Arcade 3
Wired To... 157

Friday, 8 July 2011

MacFormat RSS feed 11:39
iHub iPhone app lets you track Apple's share price wherever you are
Regular readers of MacFormat wil…

Wednesday, 22 June 2011

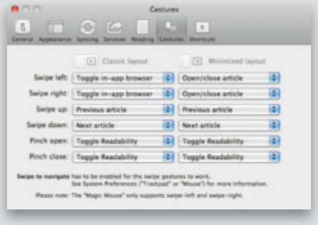
MacFormat RSS feed 10:34
Vote to decide which is the most awesome Mac ever!
Over lunch recently, team MacFormat got into a debate abo…

2 items

Apple Posts FCPX FAQ on Website

View options

The slider to the right of the standard window controls enables you to select one of *Reeder*'s three views: Starred Items (those marked as favourites), Unread Items and All Items. In the third view, all subscribed feeds will be shown, enabling you to access read articles. (*Reeder*'s Syncing preferences let you determine how long read items are kept for.)



Gestures

Classic layout | Minimized layout
Swipe left: Toggle in-app browser | Open/close article
Swipe right: Toggle in-app browser | Open/close article
Swipe up: Previous article | Previous article
Swipe down: Next article | Next article
Pinch open: Toggle Readability | Toggle Readability
Pinch close: Toggle Readability | Toggle Readability

Swipe to navigate has to be enabled for the swipe gestures to work.
See System Preferences ("Trackpad" or "Mouse") for more information.

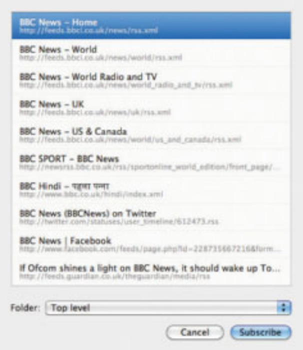
Please note: The "Magic Mouse" only supports swipe-left and swipe-right.

Gestures, shortcuts

Visit *Reeder*'s preferences and you can amend the default keyboard shortcuts in the **Shortcuts** section. If you own a Magic Trackpad or Magic Mouse, you can define which actions are performed when gestures are made. Magic Mouse owners are restricted to swipe-left and swipe-right, but Magic Trackpad owners can assign actions to vertical swipes and pinches.

Managing feeds

Select Manage Subscriptions from the actions button or go to Subscriptions > Manage Subscriptions. You then get a list of your feeds, which you can reorder via drag and drop. This window also enables you to create folders to group your feeds into, along with additional instances of the Add Subscription and Unsubscribe options.

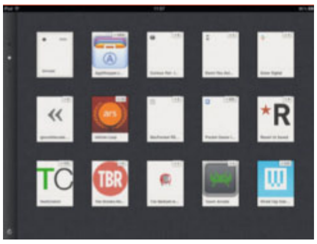


BBC News – Home
http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/rss.xml
BBC News – World
http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world/rss.xml
BBC News – World Radio and TV
http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world_radio_and_tv/rss.xml
BBC News – UK
http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/uk/rss.xml
BBC News – US & Canada
http://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/world/us_and_canada/rss.xml
BBC SPORT – BBC News
http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/sportonline_world_edition/front_page/…
BBC Hindi – पहला पन्ना
http://www.bbc.co.uk/hindi/index.xml
BBC News (BBCNews) on Twitter
http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/612473.rss
BBC News | Facebook
http://www.facebook.com/feeds/page.php?id=228735667216&form…
If Ofcom shines a light on BBC News, it should wake up To…
http://feeds.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/media/rss

Folder: Top level

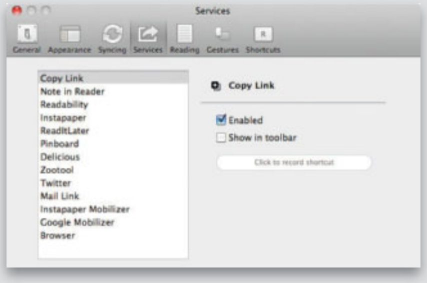
Subscribing to feeds

Use the actions button at the bottom-left of *Reeder*'s window to access a menu that enables you to open the current feed's home page in *Safari*; unsubscribe from the feed from here. You can add feeds too – select Add Subscription, paste a feed URL copied from *Safari* into the sheet's field and click Subscribe. Alternatively, type a search term and *Reeder* will try to find relevant feeds.



Reeder for iOS

Reeder began life on iOS, and the versions for the iPhone, iPod touch and iPad are just as good as the Mac release. *Reeder* for iPhone/iPod touch costs £1.79 from the App Store and has a sleek single-column mode that's perfect for RSS reading on the go; the iPad version is £2.99 and works in both portrait and landscape orientations, rather like Apple's *Mail*.

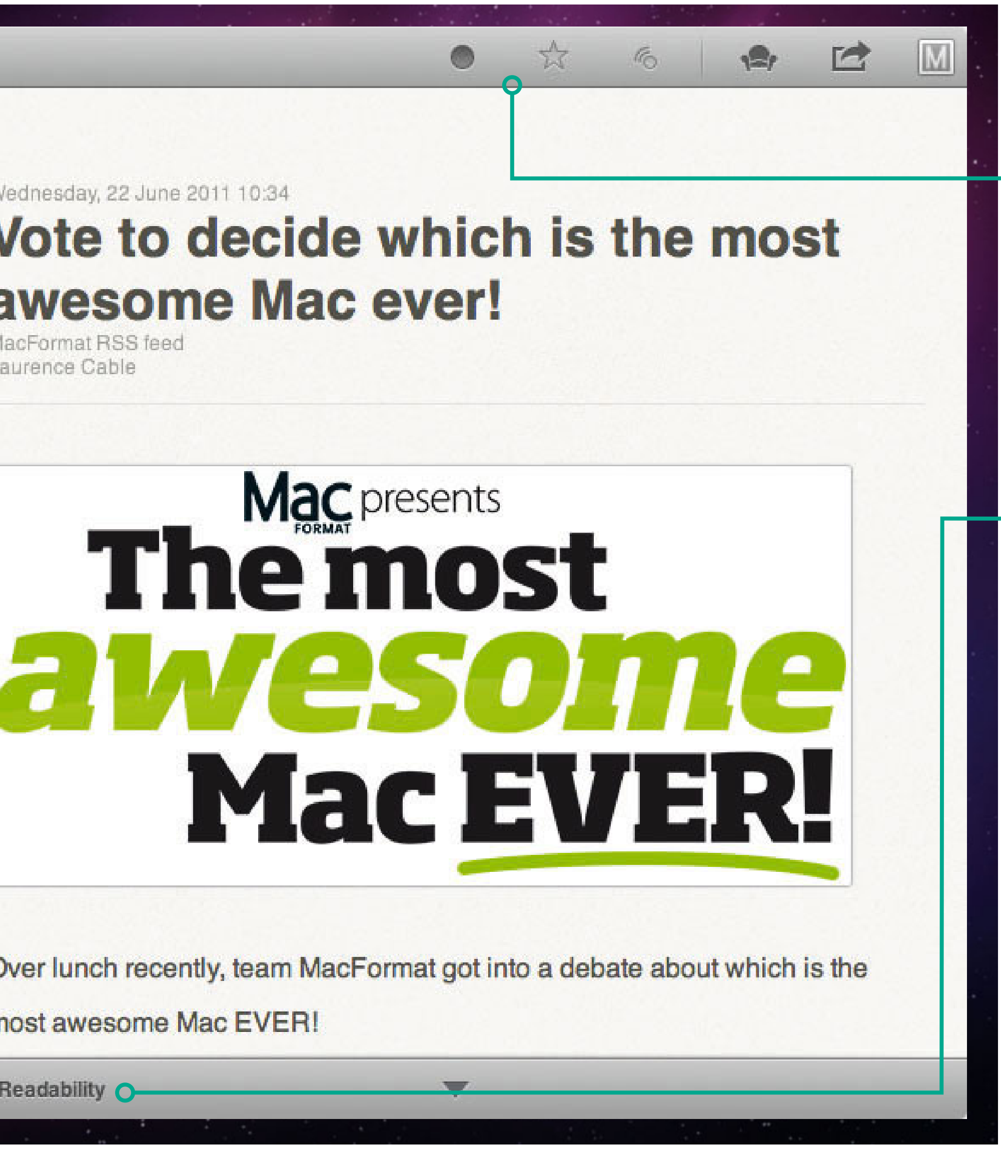


Copy Link
Note in Reader
Readability
Instapaper
ReadItLater
Pinboard
Delicious
Zootool
Twitter
Mail Link
Instapaper Mobilizer
Google Mobilizer
Browser

Copy Link
☑ Enabled
☐ Show in toolbar
Click to record shortcut

Services shortcuts

At the top-right of the *Reeder* window, you can stash shortcuts to services. This enables you to, for example, copy a link or send an article to *Instapaper* with a single click. The services shown are defined in the **Services** preferences and can also have a keyboard shortcut assigned. To the right of these services are buttons for activating the **Readability** mode and for sharing the current article.



Vednesday, 22 June 2011 10:34

Vote to decide which is the most awesome Mac ever!

lacFormat RSS feed
aurence Cable

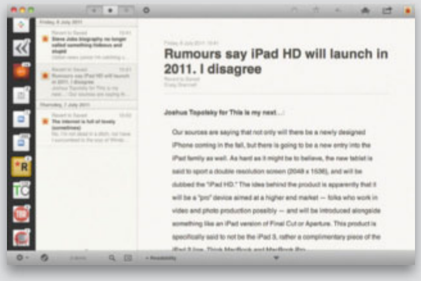
Over lunch recently, team MacFormat got into a debate about which is the ost awesome Mac EVER!

Readability

Some RSS feeds only give you a paragraph or two of text, expecting you to visit the website to see more. If that's the case with one of your subscriptions, click the Readability icon (the couch, top-right, or the activating button under the article pane) and *Reeder* will attempt to grab the rest of the article for you and render it inside the application.

Window options

Each of *Reeder's* three panes can be resized by dragging the dividers between them. Make the left-most one narrow and feed names disappear, leaving only icons and unread item counts visible. There's also a button at the bottom-right of the items pane, which enables you to toggle the 'Minimized' mode. This method is akin to *Reeder* for the iPhone.



»KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

View menu shortcuts

⌘+1	Starred Items
⌘+2	Unread Items
⌘+3	All Items
⇧+⌘+A	Sort Unread Items > Ascending
⇧+⌘+S	Sort Unread Items > Descending
⇧+⌘+D	Group Items > By Date
⇧+⌘+F	Group Items > By Feed

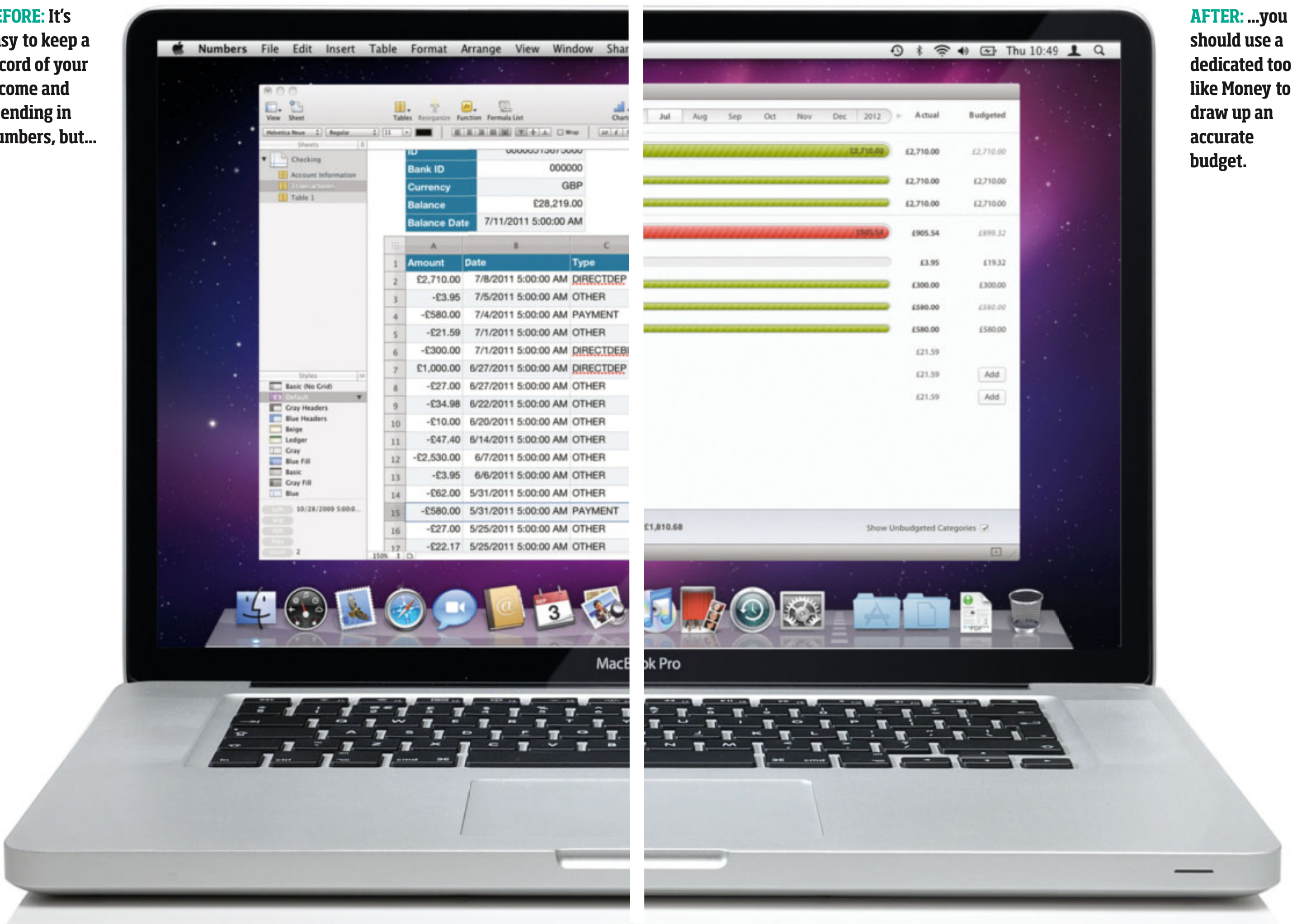
Subscriptions menu shortcuts

R	Sync

Item menu shortcuts

K	Previous Item
J	Next Item
M	Toggle Unread
V	View Original
B	View in Browser
⇧+A	Mark all as Read

BEFORE: It's easy to keep a record of your income and spending in Numbers, but...


Numbers
File
Edit
Insert
Table
Format
Arrange
View
Window
Shar
Thu 10:49
Tables
Reorganize
Function
Formula List
Chart
Checking
Account Information
Transactions
Table 1
Styles
Basic (No Grid)
Default
Gray Headers
Blue Headers
Beige
Ledger
Gray
Blue Fill
Basic
Gray Fill
Blue
150%
Jul
Aug
Sep
Oct
Nov
Dec
2012
Add
Add
£1,810.68
Show Unbudgeted Categories ☑
MacBook Pro

Bank ID	000000
Currency	GBP
Balance	£28,219.00
Balance Date	7/11/2011 5:00:00 AM

	A	B	C
1	Amount	Date	Type
2	£2,710.00	7/8/2011 5:00:00 AM	DIRECTDEP
3	-£3.95	7/5/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
4	-£580.00	7/4/2011 5:00:00 AM	PAYMENT
5	-£21.59	7/1/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
6	-£300.00	7/1/2011 5:00:00 AM	DIRECTDEBI
7	£1,000.00	6/27/2011 5:00:00 AM	DIRECTDEP
8	-£27.00	6/27/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
9	-£34.98	6/22/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
10	-£10.00	6/20/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
11	-£47.40	6/14/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
12	-£2,530.00	6/7/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
13	-£3.95	6/6/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
14	-£62.00	5/31/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
15	-£580.00	5/31/2011 5:00:00 AM	PAYMENT
16	-£27.00	5/25/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER
17	-£22.17	5/25/2011 5:00:00 AM	OTHER

Actual	Budgeted
£2,710.00	£2,710.00
£2,710.00	£2,710.00
£2,710.00	£2,710.00
£905.54	£899.32
£3.95	£19.32
£300.00	£300.00
£580.00	£580.00
£580.00	£580.00
£21.59	
£21.59	Add
£21.59	Add

AFTER: ...you should use a dedicated tool like Money to draw up an accurate budget.

Plan a budget with Money

Plan for the future to avoid financial surprises with Jumsoft's application

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 60 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Money 4

The key to financial security is knowing not only how much money you have, but what you can spend, when bills might arrive and when you can expect to be paid. In short, you need a budget.

Numbers can help, allowing you to draw up a list of transactions, and from that create graphs and charts that illustrate how things currently stand. Using a dedicated tool like *Money*, though, will let you make a better and more accurate job of it, while also saving you time.

In this tutorial we're going to set up a new account and enter a number of transactions spanning two months of income and spending. We'll check that these entries tally with our bank's own records by reconciling them against a statement, and then schedule spending that we know will take place in the months to come. This will form the basis of our budget.

With the fundamentals in place, we can accurately monitor how well we are behaving financially. As we enter further transactions over time and assign them to categories, *Money* will place each one into the relevant budget pot. So, if we've allowed ourselves £120 a month for petrol and we fill up twice, once paying £75, and the second time £50, we can see that one part of our budget has been exceeded and that we'll have to make up the difference.

> *"As we enter further transactions over time, Money will place each one into the relevant budget pot"*

Budgets are living, evolving creatures, on which you should keep a close eye at all times. If your income suddenly decreases you'll need to make an adjustment. Likewise, if it's not possible to keep your mortgage payments down to a particular level as interest rates rise, update your workings to reflect this.

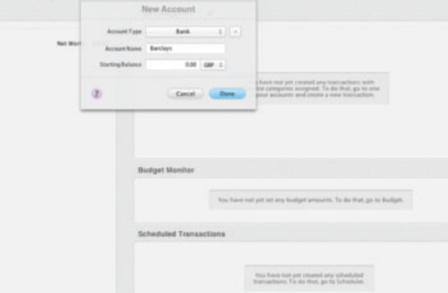
Money 4 is available from the App Store (http://bit.ly/rcBdZY), and you can download a fully functioning trial from Jumsoft at http://bit.ly/r5S9ly.

Nik Rawlinson

>> ON THE DISC

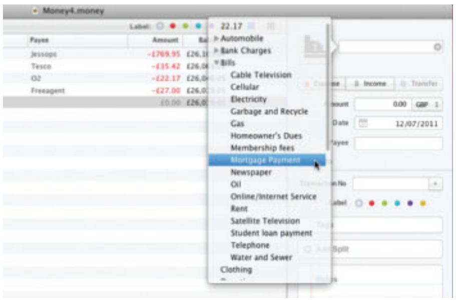
Find a trial of *Money 4* on your disc.

HOW TO / Manage your finances with Money



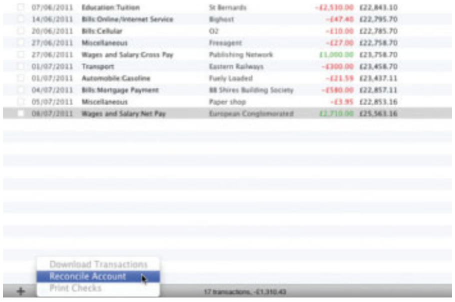
01 New account

Create a new account. Give it a name and, unless you've just opened the account, enter the current balance. *Money* can manage cash, credit cards, investments, loans and the value of assets, like houses. To track one of these, pick it from the **Account Type** menu.



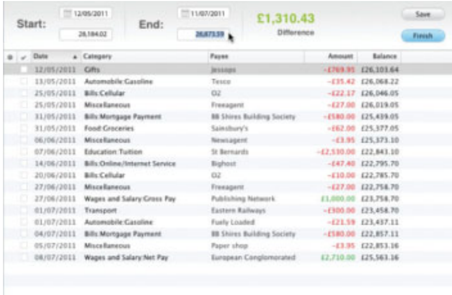
02 Enter transactions

Press ⌘+N and fill in the sidebar form to enter your income and spending. If there's no category into which an entry will fit, type your own and it'll be added to the list. Enter at least a category, value, date and payee. Use the **Add Attachments** button to add scanned receipts.



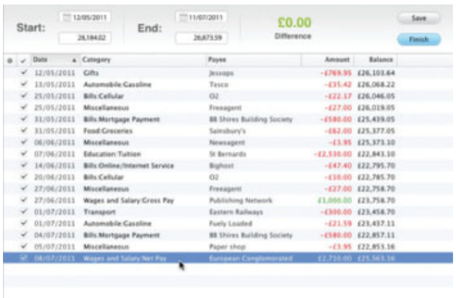
03 Check your workings

We've entered the transactions that occurred since our account opened. *Money* shows a summary on the status bar at the foot of the window and a current balance beside the account name. Now to check our workings: click the status bar cog and choose **Reconcile Account**.



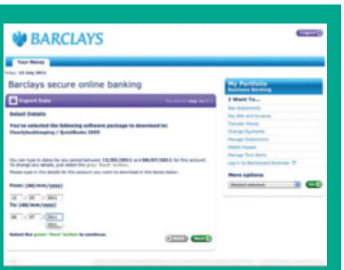
04 Reconcile your balance

Dig out your statement, and enter the start and end dates for the period it covers, along with its opening and closing balances. *Money* works out the difference between them. Work through it, ticking the box beside each item in *Money* if it matches the statement entry.



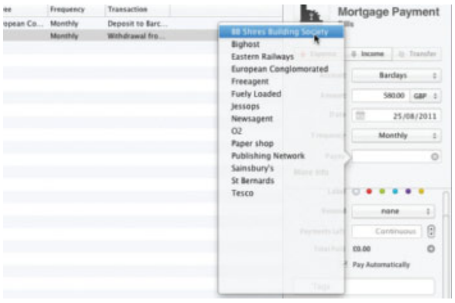
05 Successfully reconciled

With each transaction ticked off, we can see the **Difference** at the top of the interface reads £0; so we know that our own workings and our bank's records match, and the picture of our finances presented in *Money* is accurate. We can now use our checked data to build a budget.



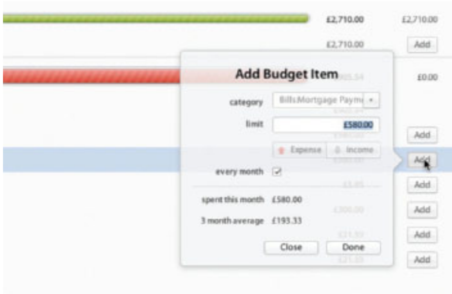
QUICK TIP

If you have bank data in *Microsoft Money* (OFX) or *Quicken* (QIF / QFX) format, or as comma separated values (CSV), you can import your transactions into *Money* directly. *Money* exports in QIF and CSV; the latter works in *Numbers* and *Excel*.



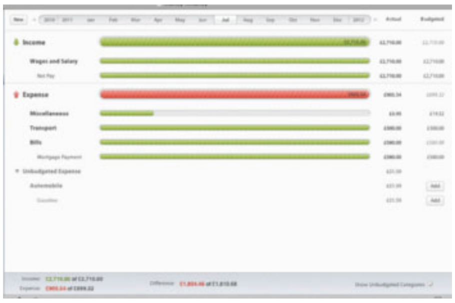
06 Start a schedule

Start by scheduling payments and receipts which recur regularly. Click the + and enter them in the sidebar, this time choosing an option from the **Frequency** menu of between **every day** and **annually**. Leave the **Payments Left** box empty if there is no set end-date.



07 Budget transactions

Some of your existing entries, such as wages and mortgage, will be made regularly. Click **Budget** in the sidebar, then the **Add** button beside each relevant transaction. For transactions that change from month to month, use the 'limit' box to specify a maximum budget.



08 Check your progress

We can now see how well we're sticking to budget over time by clicking the months at the top of the window. The warning triangle in the sidebar indicates a problem with spending, shown at the foot of the summary. Our budget was £899.32, but we've spent £905.54. ●

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APPS: HAVE ONE-STOP SHOPS GONE TOO FAR?
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It's imminent. It will change everything
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Manage windows with Afloat

Take control of your desktop with this handy hack for Snow Leopard

KEY INFO

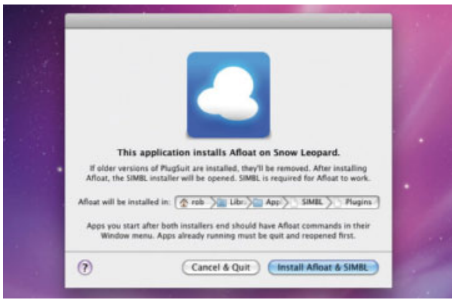
DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Mac OS X 10.6, Afloat

Whether your Mac has a small screen or you just like to keep lots of applications open, managing all those windows can get tricky pretty quickly. *Afloat* (free, **www.infinite-labs.net/afloat**) helps you get round all that. It enables you to set the transparency of windows so you can stack them on top of each other and see through each layer to the window below. You can also pin frequently used windows, documents and so on to the desktop – so they're always available when you need them. If you're using Snow Leopard, *Afloat* enables you to move or resize a window without having to grab the title bar or the bottom right corner. To move a window, hold ctrl+⌘ and drag your mouse pointer anywhere inside the window. To resize a window, hold ctrl+⌘ and right-click-drag the window in any direction. The only caveat is that *Afloat* won't work with all your apps, only the Cocoa ones. So *iCal*, *iChat* and *Safari*, for example, will work; *Finder* and *iTunes* will not. **Rob Mead-Green**

HOW TO / Make the most of Afloat's features



This application installs Afloat on Snow Leopard.

If older versions of PlugSuit are installed, they'll be removed. After installing Afloat, the SIMBL installer will be opened. SIMBL is required for Afloat to work.

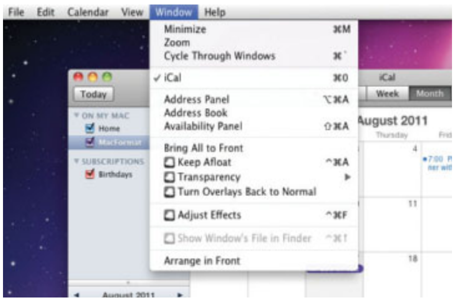
Afloat will be installed in: rob › Libr › App › SIMBL › Plugins

Apps you start after both installers end should have Afloat commands in their Window menu. Apps already running must be quit and reopened first.

?
Cancel & Quit
Install Afloat & SIMBL

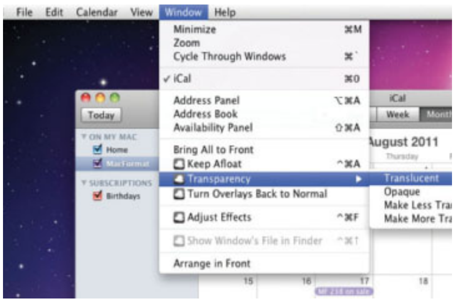
01 Installing Afloat

When you fire up *Afloat*'s application installer you'll notice that it uses something called SIMBL, or SIMple Bundle Loader – an *Xcode* package that adds hacks to OS X applications for extra functionality. *Afloat* does not work as a standalone app.


File Edit Calendar View Window Help
Minimize ⌘M
Zoom
Cycle Through Windows ⌘`
✓ iCal ⌘0
Address Panel ⌥⌘A
Address Book
Availability Panel ⇧⌘A
Bring All to Front
Keep Afloat ^⌘A
Transparency
Turn Overlays Back to Normal
Adjust Effects ^⌘F
Show Window's File in Finder ^⌘1
Arrange in Front
August 2011

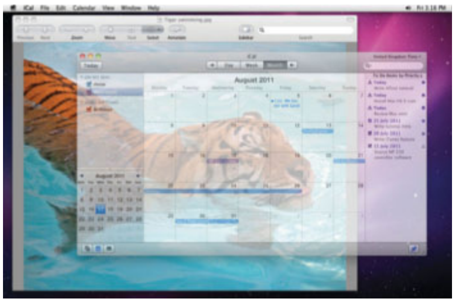
02 Cocoa versus Carbon

When you install *Afloat* it adds a bunch of extra menu options to Cocoa apps such as *iCal*, *iPhoto*, *Mail* and *Safari*, but not to Carbon ones such as *iTunes*. To access the new menu options, go to Application Menu > Window. They're the ones prefixed with a cloud icon.


File Edit Calendar View Window Help
Minimize ⌘M
Zoom
Cycle Through Windows ⌘`
✓ iCal ⌘0
Address Panel ⌥⌘A
Address Book
Availability Panel ⇧⌘A
Bring All to Front
Keep Afloat ^⌘A
Transparency
Turn Overlays Back to Normal
Adjust Effects ^⌘F
Show Window's File in Finder ^⌘1
Arrange in Front
Translucent
Opaque
Make Less Tra
Make More Tra
August 2011

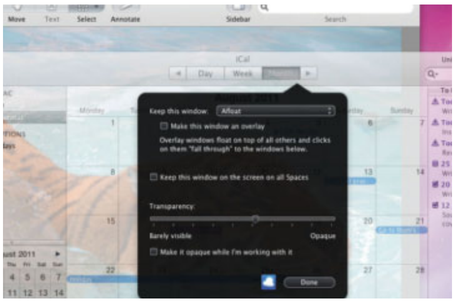
03 Float to the top

The **Stay Afloat** command (ctrl+⌘+A) makes sure the currently selected window sticks to the top of the stack, even if you open lots of other applications windows – that's handy if you have have limited desktop space, such as on the 11-inch MacBook Air.



04 Hide in plain sight

One way to manage multiple open windows is to make some translucent so you can see through to the layers underneath. You can achieve this easily in *Afloat* using the **Translucent** command (ctrl+⌘+1) from the application's **Window** menu.



Keep this window: Afloat

☐ Make this window an overlay

Overlay windows float on top of all others and clicks on them "fall through" to the windows below.

☐ Keep this window on the screen on all Spaces

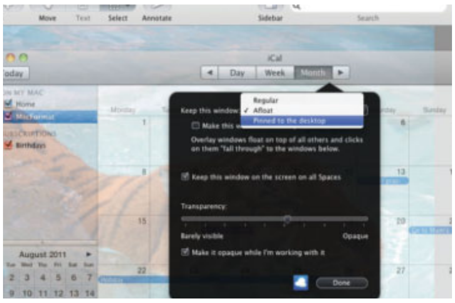
Transparency:

Barely visible
Opaque
Done
iCal
Day
Week
Annotate
Sidebar
Search

☐ Make it opaque while I'm working with it

05 Useful extras

To understand the real benefits of *Afloat*, you'll need to delve into its **Settings** menu (⇧+⌘+A), where you'll discover additional options. These include the ability to turn a window into an overlay, so mouse clicks fall through it to the application below.



Keep this window:

Regular
✓ Afloat
Pinned to the desktop
Barely visible
Opaque
Done

☐ Make this window an overlay

Overlay windows float on top of all others and clicks on them "fall through" to the windows below.

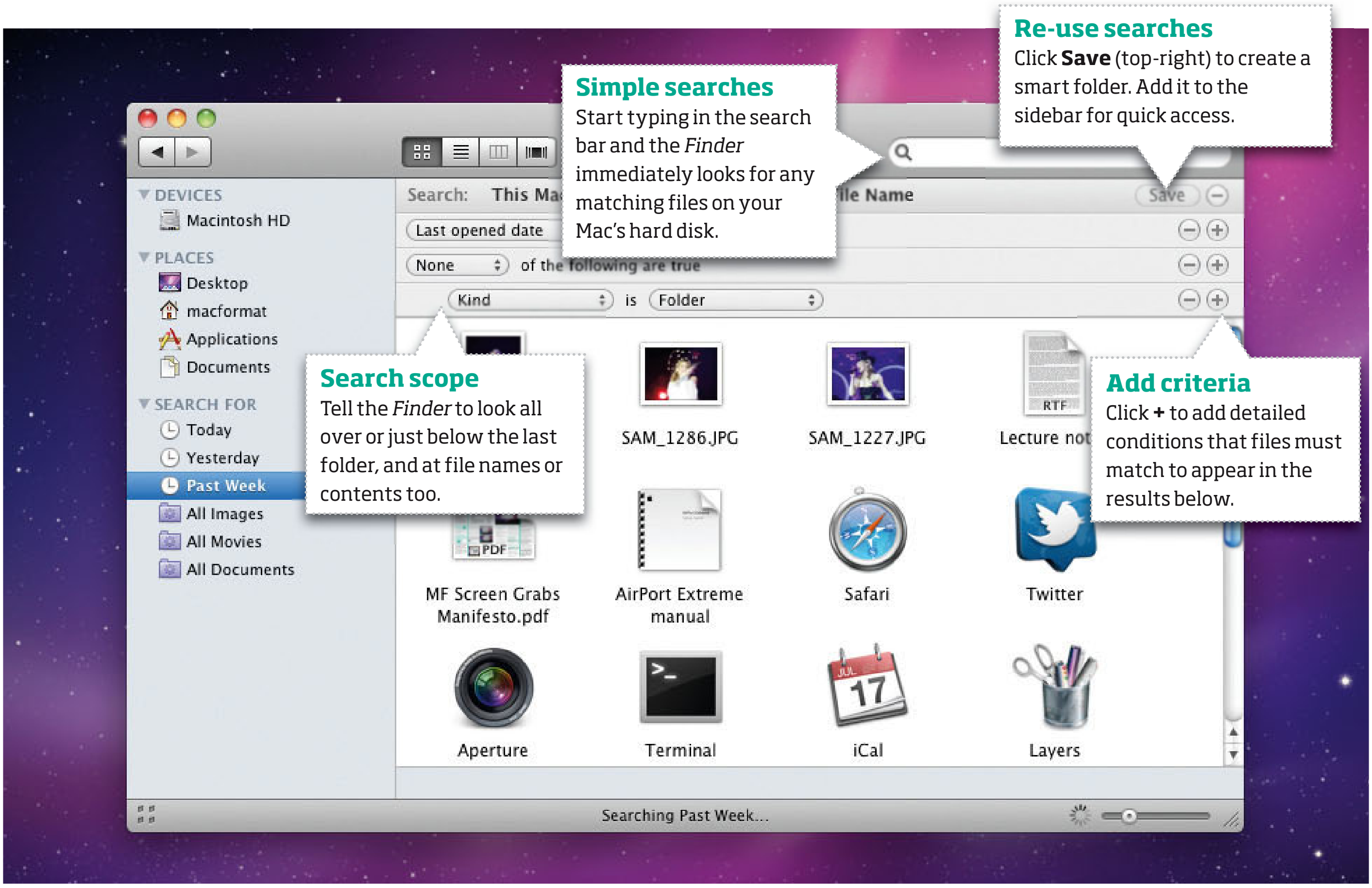
☑ Keep this window on the screen on all Spaces

Transparency:

☑ Make it opaque while I'm working with it

06 Stay on screen

The **Pinned To The Desktop** option is one of the most useful in *Afloat*. It makes sure the selected window always stays on screen – perfect for things such as **To Do** lists, telephone numbers and other frequently accessed documents or information. ●


DEVICES
Macintosh HD
PLACES
Desktop
macformat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
Search: This Mac
File Name
Save
Last opened date
None
of the following are true
Kind
is
Folder
SAM_1286.JPG
SAM_1227.JPG
RTF
Lecture not
PDF
MF Screen Grabs Manifesto.pdf
AirPort Extreme manual
Safari
Twitter
Aperture
Terminal
JUL
17
iCal
Layers
Searching Past Week...

Re-use searches
Click **Save** (top-right) to create a smart folder. Add it to the sidebar for quick access.

Simple searches
Start typing in the search bar and the *Finder* immediately looks for any matching files on your Mac's hard disk.

Search scope
Tell the *Finder* to look all over or just below the last folder, and at file names or contents too.

Add criteria
Click **+** to add detailed conditions that files must match to appear in the results below.

Search in detail with Spotlight

Unlock the true potential of the Mac OS X system-wide search engine

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Leopard, Snow Leopard or Lion (some features work with Tiger, but it looks very different and is often slow)

When you need to find something on your Mac, there are several starting points. Which one is appropriate depends on how broadly you need to search. Applications that organise large amounts of related information, such as *iCal* and *iTunes*, have a search bar built in. But sometimes you won't have a clue where something is stored, and that's where Spotlight comes in handy.

In fact, Spotlight is the basis for searching across your whole system. It works silently in the background to index changes made as you work. This is why you can near-instantly track things down later.

Spotlight's most basic form is the Spotlight menu, accessed by clicking the magnifying glass at the far right of the menu bar. Type something into its search bar and all sorts of item appear – files, applications, emails, songs and more – grouped by type. You can control which types are shown, and their order, by opening System Preferences > Spotlight > Search Results.

The Spotlight menu usually works brilliantly, but it only has room for a limited number of results. When there are too many, and when it's difficult to tell apart files with similar names, choose Show All Finder at the top of the menu. You'll have to cope with the jarring shift to a Spotlight window, and pick out the items of interest from a potentially much longer list; but you'll be able to select them and hit the spacebar to preview their contents and decide which is the correct one. Lion saves you hassle by integrating Quick Look right into the Spotlight menu.

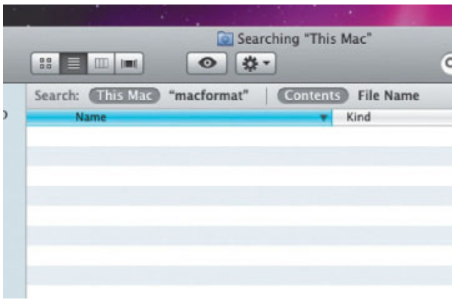
> *"Spotlight's most basic form is its menu, accessed by clicking the magnifying glass right of the menu bar"*

When you open a Spotlight window, it continues to show files that match the criteria you typed into the Spotlight menu. You can add more criteria to inspect additional attributes in detail. When you're totally unsure where a file is saved, this is the most powerful way to pinpoint what you're after.

Spotlight searches can be started from scratch as well, cutting out a couple of steps. Any search that you think will come in useful again can be saved as a smart folder, so that you don't have to rebuild it from scratch. There are some hidden tricks as well, which give you even more power than you might have imagined.

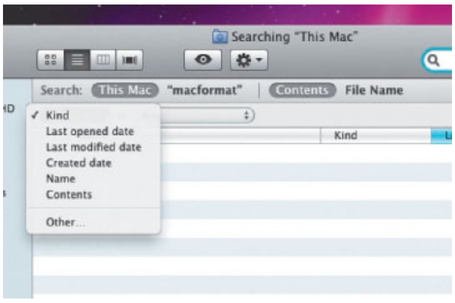
Alan Stonebridge

HOW TO / Find exactly what you're looking for


Searching "This Mac"
Search: This Mac "macformat" Contents File Name
Name Kind

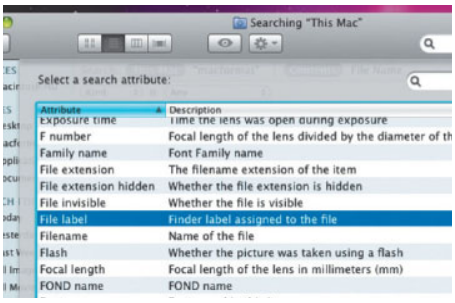
01 Start from scratch

Press ⌥+⌘+[Space] to open a Spotlight window, so you can find files using more than keywords. Options in the search bar let you choose to look everywhere or just in the **Home** folder. To look in a specific folder, browse there, press ⌘+F and select it in the bar.


Searching "This Mac"
Search: This Mac "macformat" Contents File Name
✓ Kind
Last opened date
Last modified date
Created date
Name
Contents
Other…
Kind

02 Build your criteria

Click **+** at the right of the search options bar to add criteria for files to meet. The leftmost item in a row is the attribute to be inspected. Click it for a list of common attributes. Choose **Other** to see more. Type in the adjacent search bar to look in descriptions as well as names.

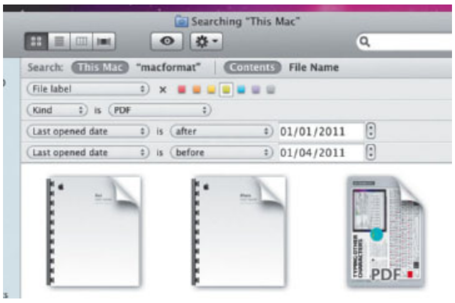

Searching "This Mac"

Select a search attribute:

Attribute	Description
Exposure time	Time the lens was open during exposure
F number	Focal length of the lens divided by the diameter of th
Family name	Font Family name
File extension	The filename extension of the item
File extension hidden	Whether the file extension is hidden
File invisible	Whether the file is visible
File label	Finder label assigned to the file
Filename	Name of the file
Flash	Whether the picture was taken using a flash
Focal length	Focal length of the lens in millimeters (mm)
FOND name	FOND name

03 Quick attribute access

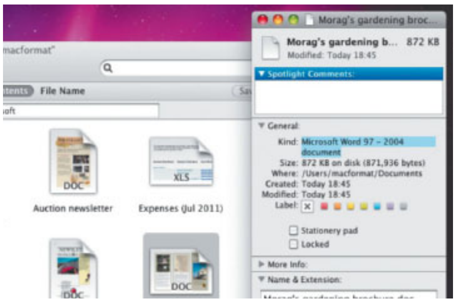
Some extended attributes are regularly useful. **File label**, for example, matches files by the assigned colour label. Tick the adjacent box in the **In Menu** column to save browsing the long list. Obscure attributes are separately grouped, so often-used ones are quick to access.


Searching "This Mac"
Search: This Mac "macformat" Contents File Name
PDF

File label ✕ 🟥 🟧 🟨 🟩 🟦 🟪 ⬜
Kind is PDF
Last opened date is after 01/01/2011
Last opened date is before 01/04/2011

04 Matching values

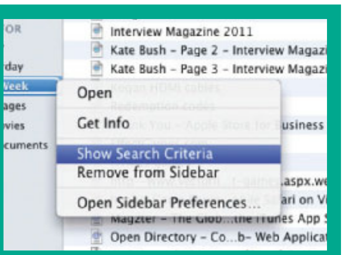
Items to the right in a row specify the conditions that files must meet. For dates, you can look within a specific period or relative to today. Many others accept freeform text. The options differ depending on the attribute, but they're easy to construct, just like sentences.


Morag's gardening broc…
macformat"
File Name
Auction newsletter
Expenses (Jul 2011)
DOC
XLS
DOC

Morag's gardening b… 872 KB
Modified: Today 18:45
▼ Spotlight Comments:
▼ General:
Kind: Microsoft Word 97 - 2004 document
Size: 872 KB on disk (871,936 bytes)
Where: /Users/macformat/Documents
Created: Today 18:45
Modified: Today 18:45
Label:
☐ Stationery pad
☐ Locked
▶ More Info:
▼ Name & Extension:

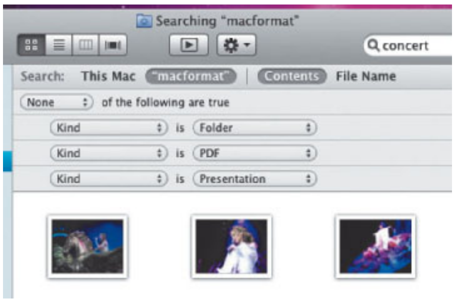
05 Specific file types

Searching by kind works by category, or when you choose **Other**. So, 'Microsoft' shows *Word* and *Excel* files since both descriptions contain the word. If you're unsure what to type, locate an example, choose File > Get Info and copy and paste its kind from the **General** group.


Interview Magazine 2011
Kate Bush – Page 2 – Interview Magazi
Kate Bush – Page 3 – Interview Magazi
Open
Get Info
Show Search Criteria
Remove from Sidebar
Open Sidebar Preferences…
Open Directory – Co…b– Web Applicat

QUICK TIP

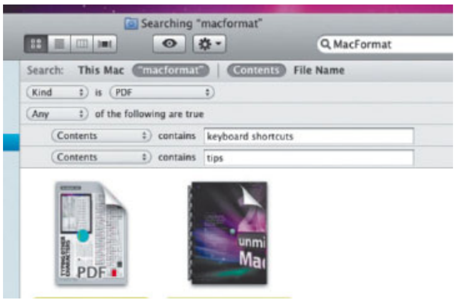
To revise a smart folder, open it, click the Action (cog) button in the toolbar, and pick **Show Search Criteria**. A right-click on the sidebar searches for this option. To keep the old and modified versions, duplicate the smart folder. Sidebar searches are in **~/Library/Saved Searches**.


Searching "macformat"
concert
Search: This Mac "macformat" Contents File Name

None of the following are true
Kind is Folder
Kind is PDF
Kind is Presentation

06 Trim results

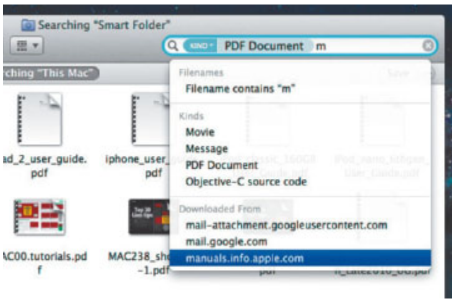
If you discern a pattern to superfluous results, they can be excluded. Hold ⌥ and the + buttons change to ellipses that add a group of conditions. Setting the group's first row to **None** can filter out, say, PDF files when you're looking for other documents used to create them.


Searching "macformat"
MacFormat
Search: This Mac "macformat" Contents File Name
PDF

Kind is PDF
Any of the following are true
Contents contains keyboard shortcuts
Contents contains tips

07 Uncertain terms

Conversely, setting that option to **Any** can reveal files that you're not sure contain all of your keywords. For example, files that contain tips or 'keyboard shortcuts,' but not necessarily both. Be careful to enclose phrases in double-quotes to match them exactly.


Searching "Smart Folder"
KIND PDF Document m
ching "This Mac"
ad_2_user_guide.pdf
iphone_user…pdf
AC00.tutorials.pdf
MAC238_sh…-1.pdf
Filenames
Filename contains "m"
Kinds
Movie
Message
PDF Document
Objective-C source code
Downloaded From
mail-attachment.googleusercontent.com
mail.google.com
manuals.info.apple.com

08 Be precise and quick

In Lion, the *Finder's* search bar tries to interpret the meaning of keywords. Choosing a suggestion turns it into a token. Click the left bit to change scope. Double-click the right bit to change keyword. This reduces the amount of clicking needed to specify search terms. ●

BetterTouchTool

Take control of multi-touch gestures with this innovative application

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.6 or later, BetterTouchTool

>> ON THE DISC

Find a copy of this app on the disc.

With the release of OS X 10.7 Lion, Apple will add a lot more functionality to its multi-touch capable devices, adding new gestures to the operating system as standard, instead of them being applied only on an app-by-app basis. But these are still certain prescribed actions, and it's possible to be doing a lot more with the complex technology inside your Magic Mouse, Magic Trackpad or MacBook trackpad.

BetterTouchTool enables you take total control over the gestures on your Mac. With it, you can assign actions to certain gestures, and you have the complete range of what your trackpad or mouse can pick up – including four- and five-finger gestures. You can assign gestures to work in just one app or in the system as a whole, so users of Mac OS X 10.6 who don't upgrade to Lion will be able to simulate Lion's global gestures using it. The developer is adding support for Lion's new features, such as presets for launching the new full-screen mode for apps using a gesture of your choosing. (And *BetterTouchTool* is being regularly updated and optimised for OS X 10.7, so always be sure to update.)

With this level of control over the gestures you can perform, it's possible to create a system that offers immediate access to the controls you use most often, whether that's to make actions in complicated apps easier to remember, or simply in order to let you control your Mac with less effort. For example, instead of having to remember a complicated key combination to perform an obscure task, you could simply assign it to a five-fingered swipe on your trackpad, or you could set the app you use most often to open with a three-fingered tap.

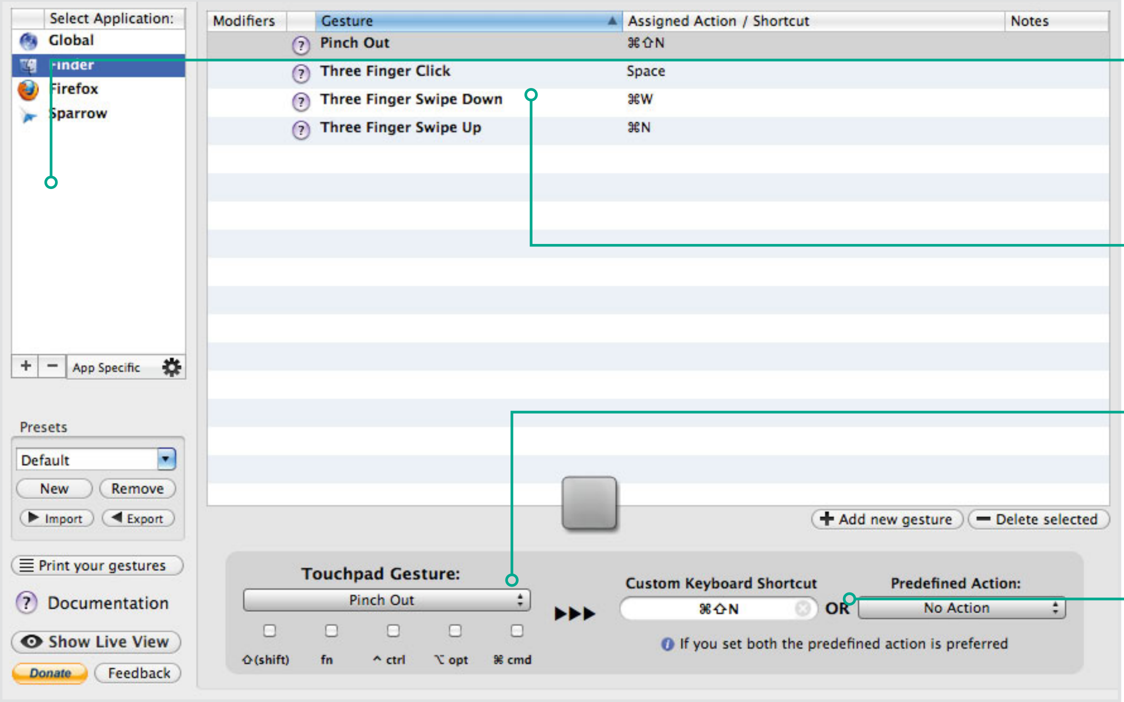
> *"The developer is adding support for Lion's new features, such as presets for full-screen mode"*

BetterTouchTool also has presets for controlling window snapping, so you can assign gestures to actions such as maximising a window in the left or right half of the screen, or moving it to a second monitor. There are more window management features in *BetterSnapTool* (on the Mac App Store); it also supports the free *BetterTouchTool*.

We'll take you through the layout of *BetterTouchTool* and how to create a new gesture control, and suggest some ways to use it in common apps.

Matthew Bolton

>> QUICK LOOK / The BetterTouchTool layout



Modifiers	Gesture	Assigned Action / Shortcut	Notes
	Pinch Out	⌘⇧N	
	Three Finger Click	Space	
	Three Finger Swipe Down	⌘W	
	Three Finger Swipe Up	⌘N	

Touchpad Gesture: Pinch Out
Custom Keyboard Shortcut: ⌘⇧N OR Predefined Action: No Action
If you set both the predefined action is preferred

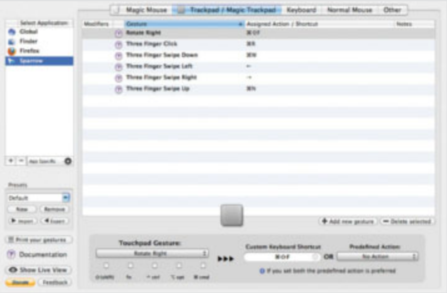
Application list
This is where you add apps to apply gestures to, or choose to apply them globally.

Gesture list
Here are gestures you've already created; they can also be edited.

Gesture selection
Select what gesture you want to use from the comprehensive list.

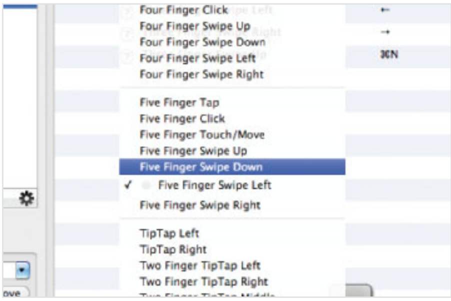
Shortcut/action
Define the keyboard shortcut for the action you want to perform.

HOW TO / Create and use a new gesture control



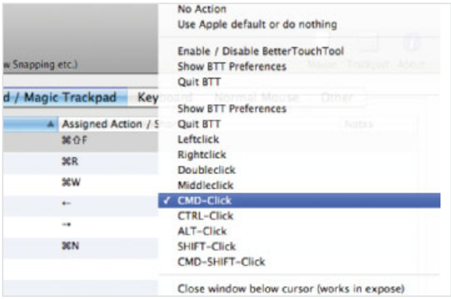
01 Select an app

First decide if you want your gesture to be system-wide, or just for a specific app. If it's the former, select **Global** in the box on the left-hand side. If it's the latter, click the plus sign below the list, and choose the app. Click the **Add new gesture** button in the lower-right.


Four Finger Click
Four Finger Swipe Up
Four Finger Swipe Down
Four Finger Swipe Left
Four Finger Swipe Right
Five Finger Tap
Five Finger Click
Five Finger Touch/Move
Five Finger Swipe Up
Five Finger Swipe Down
Five Finger Swipe Left
Five Finger Swipe Right
TipTap Left
TipTap Right
Two Finger TipTap Left
Two Finger TipTap Right

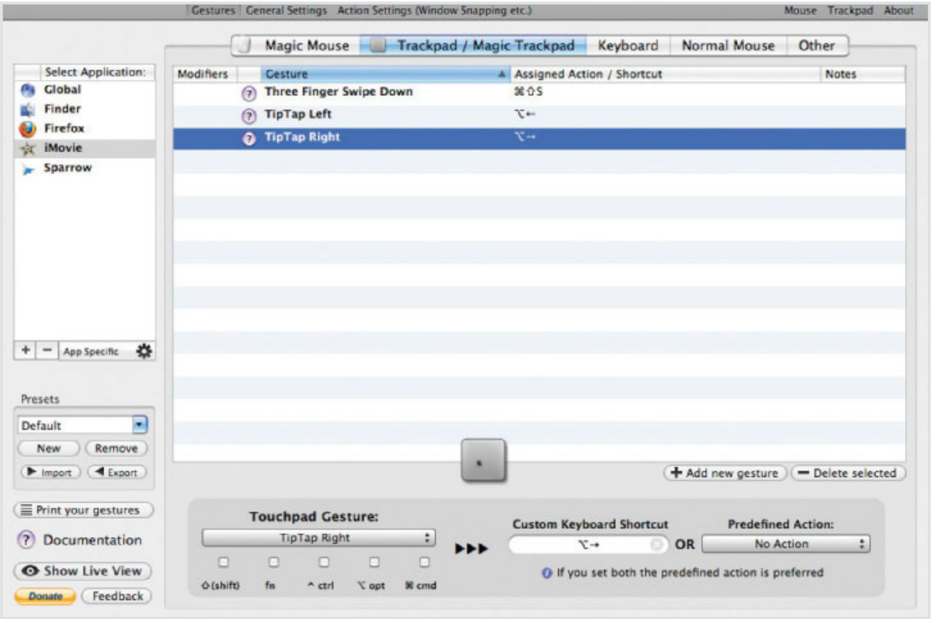
02 Select a gesture

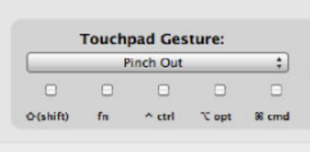
Now select the gesture you want to use. Remember any gestures in apps that might already be in use (*BetterTouchTool* indicates if you've already set any in it), and don't set anything awkward or elaborate – it'll be easily forgotten or prove just plain annoying.


No Action
Use Apple default or do nothing
Enable / Disable BetterTouchTool
Show BTT Preferences
Quit BTT
Show BTT Preferences
Quit BTT
Leftclick
Rightclick
Doubleclick
Middleclick
CMD-Click
CTRL-Click
ALT-Click
SHIFT-Click
CMD-SHIFT-Click
Close window below cursor (works in expose)

03 Select an action

Set what you want the gesture to do. The list of predefined actions has a large range of OS X controls, some modified navigation commands and some window resizing options. If it's an app-specific command you want to map, click in the space and press the keys.


Gestures
General Settings
Action Settings (Window Snapping etc.)
Mouse
Trackpad
About
Magic Mouse
Trackpad / Magic Trackpad
Keyboard
Normal Mouse
Other
Select Application:
Global
Finder
Firefox
iMovie
Sparrow
Modifiers
Gesture
Assigned Action / Shortcut
Notes
Three Finger Swipe Down
TipTap Left
TipTap Right
App Specific
Presets
Default
New
Remove
Import
Export
Print your gestures
Documentation
Show Live View
Donate
Feedback
Add new gesture
Delete selected
Touchpad Gesture:
TipTap Right
⇧(shift)
fn
^ ctrl
⌥ opt
⌘ cmd
Custom Keyboard Shortcut
OR
Predefined Action:
No Action
If you set both the predefined action is preferred

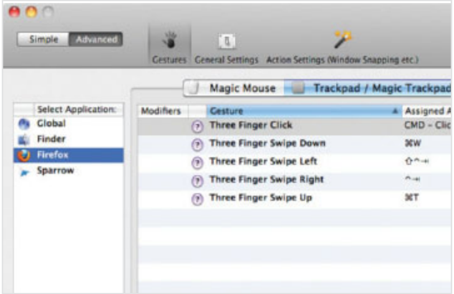

Touchpad Gesture:
Pinch Out
⇧(shift)
fn
^ ctrl
⌥ opt
⌘ cmd

QUICK TIP

BetterTouchTool also enables you to map your own custom keyboard commands for its predefined action list, so you tweak that aspect of OS X specifically. And notice that you can add modifier keys for activating gestures, offering thousands of possible combinations. There's more to this tool than first meets the eye!

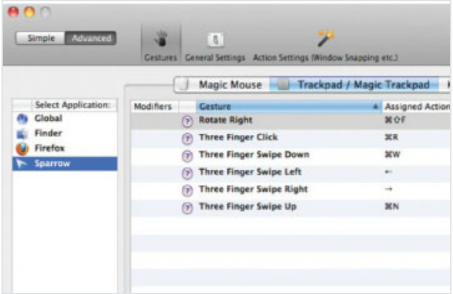
06 Access hidden tools

So far, we've only really made options that are easily clickable slightly quicker to access, but plenty of applications have tools hidden in their menu bar. For example, *iMovie* can be a more powerful editor if you can easily activate some of its more advanced tools. Splitting the clip at the playhead is a bit awkward with the new skimming feature. But you could apply its shortcut, ⇧+⌘+S, to a gesture that makes sense for it – since you're cutting a clip, we'd suggest swiping three fingers down. The **Trim Clip Ends** tools are also handy for making quick, precise adjustments. We think the **TipTap left** and **right** gesture could suit this. ●


Simple
Advanced
Gestures
General Settings
Action Settings (Window Snapping etc.)
Magic Mouse
Trackpad / Magic Trackpad
Select Application:
Global
Finder
Firefox
Sparrow
Modifiers
Gesture
Three Finger Click
Three Finger Swipe Down
Three Finger Swipe Left
Three Finger Swipe Right
Three Finger Swipe Up

04 Web browsing

We've made working with tabs in web browsing much easier by adding some simple gestures. Swipe three fingers up to open a new tab; swipe them down to close it. Swipe left or right to move through the open tabs. Click with three fingers to open a link in a new tab.


Simple
Advanced
Gestures
General Settings
Action Settings (Window Snapping etc.)
Magic Mouse
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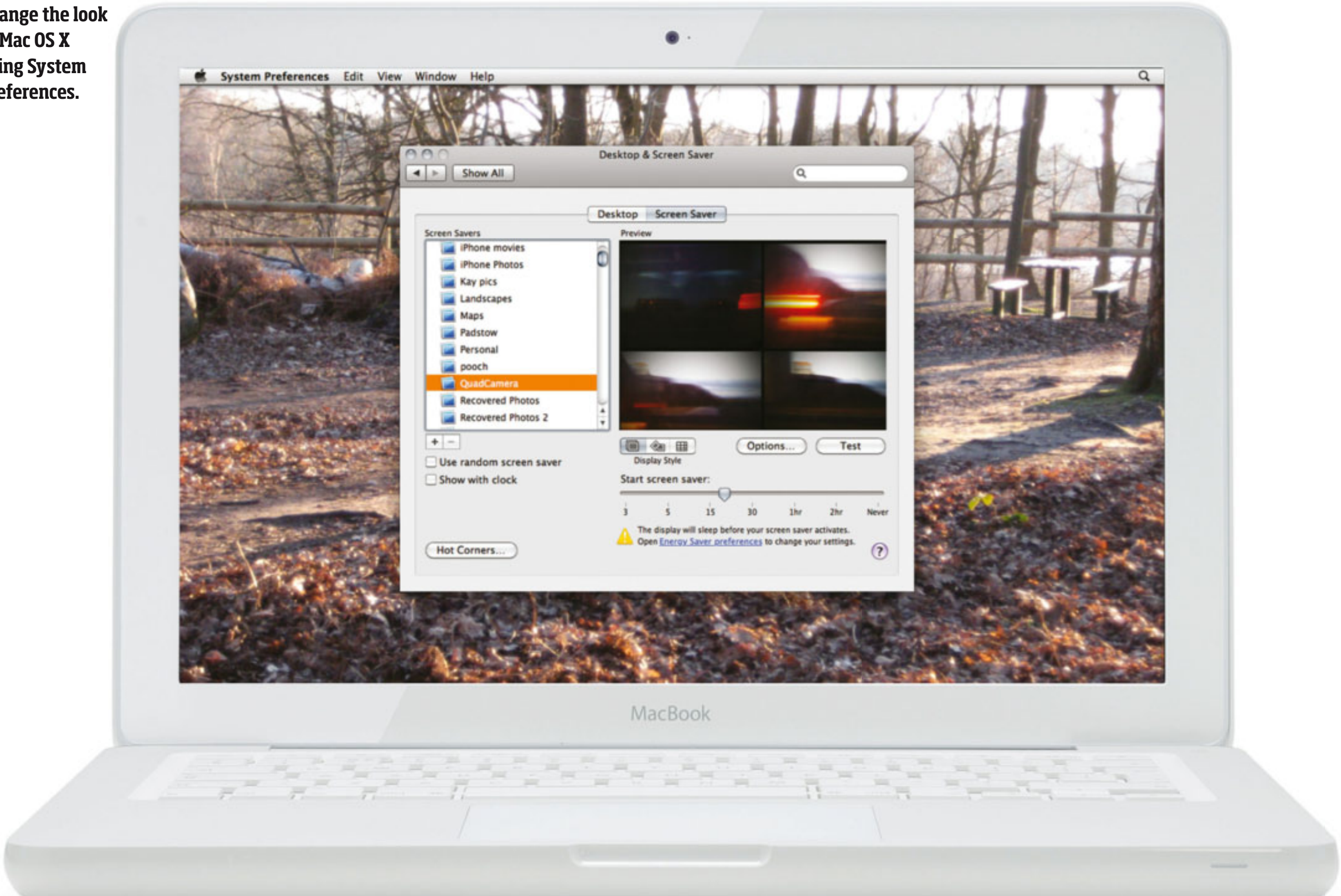
Select Application:
Global
Finder
Firefox
Sparrow
Modifiers
Gesture
Rotate Right
Three Finger Click
Three Finger Swipe Down
Three Finger Swipe Left
Three Finger Swipe Right
Three Finger Swipe Up

05 Standardise apps

If you have apps you use together and one has gestures built in, use *BetterTouchTool* to make the other behave in a similar way. *Sparrow* is a mail client that looks a lot like *Twitter for Mac*, so we added some gestures to make it behave just like Twitter's app.

Change the look of Mac OS X using System Preferences.


System Preferences
Edit
View
Window
Help
Desktop & Screen Saver
Show All
Desktop
Screen Saver
Screen Savers
Preview
iPhone movies
iPhone Photos
Kay pics
Landscapes
Maps
Padstow
Personal
pooch
QuadCamera
Recovered Photos
Recovered Photos 2
Display Style
Options...
Test
Start screen saver:
3
5
15
30
1hr
2hr
Never
Hot Corners...
MacBook

☐ Use random screen saver
☐ Show with clock

The display will sleep before your screen saver activates. Open Energy Saver preferences to change your settings.

Master appearance settings

Learn to use the Appearance and Desktop & Screen Saver preferences

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.6+, optional desktop pictures

Since the arrival of Mac OS X, Apple's had a tendency to lock down its operating system's visual appearance in order to ensure as much user interface consistency as possible. This is somewhat at odds with Mac OS 9, which was, relatively speaking, quite hackable from an appearance standpoint.

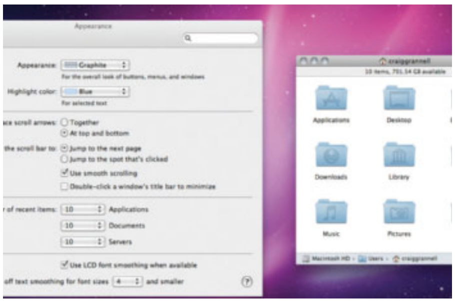
By contrast, reskinning options for Mac OS X have been few in number and have fallen out of favour surprisingly quickly. For the most part, this was because of the increasingly complex nature of making any major changes, leading to system instability. It's all very well to want a Mac that looks a bit like something from your favourite sci-fi film, but that's not such a joy when your computer subsequently becomes less reliable.

However, Apple nonetheless realises you need at least a few customisation options. As such, you can change your Mac's desktop background and screensaver; it's also possible to make minor changes to global appearance settings, including muting system-wide colours – a useful option for designers who don't want any visual distractions.

> *"It's possible to make minor changes to global appearance settings, including muting colours"*

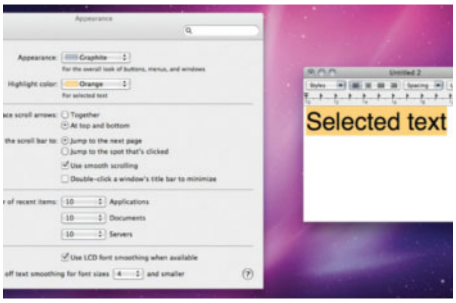
On the following page, both the Appearance and Desktop & Screen Saver panes in System Preferences are explored. Our steps relate to Snow Leopard, but most of the tips are also relevant for Leopard. It's also worth noting that both panes remain in Lion, which should be available by the time you read this. The only major change is in the Appearance pane, where the scrolling options are different. The Place scroll arrows option is gone, replaced by a number of settings that determine the visibility of scrollbars (automatic by default, but you can force them on by selecting Always from Show scroll bars) and an option to amend the size of icons in *Finder* sidebars.
Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Change your Mac's visual appearance



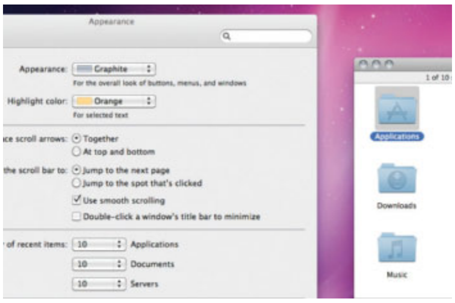
01 Desaturate the interface

Launch *System Preferences* and select **Appearance** from the **Personal** section. Click the **Appearance** menu and you can choose from **Blue** or **Graphite**. The first of those is the default; select **Graphite** and the traffic light window buttons and blue scrollbars turn grey.



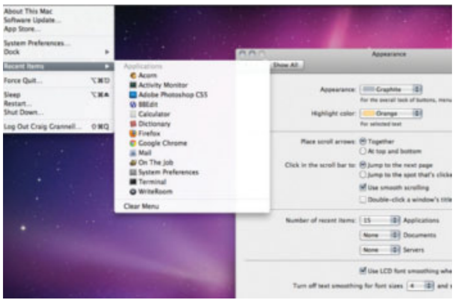
02 Update highlights

Highlighted text is shown in blue in the foreground and grey in the background. Use the **Highlight color** option to amend the foreground colour, such as to **Graphite** or **Silver** when using the **Graphite Appearance** option. Use **Other** to select a custom colour from the colour picker.



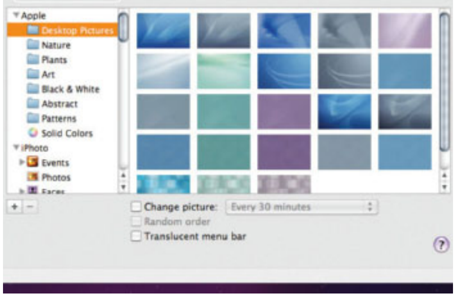
03 Update scrolling

The second set of **Appearance** options enables you to determine where scroll arrows appear (both at the bottom of a scroll bar or at each end); turning off **Use smooth scrolling** may improve performance slightly when scrolling large documents on old Macs.



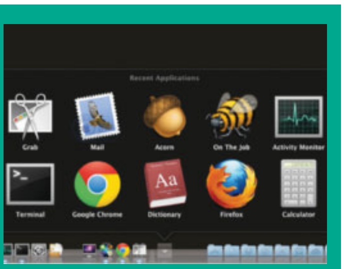
04 Amend recent items

The recent items menus (**Applications**, **Documents** and **Servers**) are all set to 10 by default, but 50 right down to 'None' are supported. Update a menu and the item number in the menu's **Recent Items** menu adjusts. Set an option to 'None' and that category is removed.



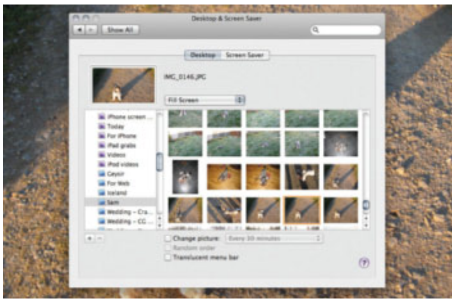
05 Make the menu bar solid

Apple de-emphasised the menu bar in Leopard, making it translucent – a setting that remains in 10.6. In *System Preferences*, select **Desktop & Screen Saver** and uncheck **Translucent menu bar**. It will instantly become solid, making text and icons easier to see.



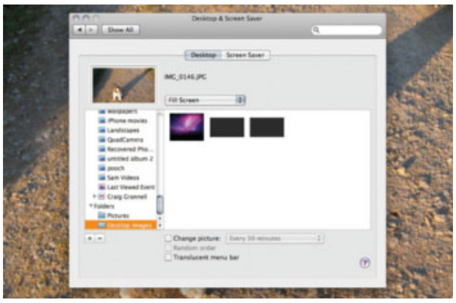
QUICK TIP

Step 4 also amends items in recent items stacks in the Dock – useful if you want more than 10. To create a stack, type **defaults write com.apple.dock persistent-others -array-add '{"tile-data"={"list-type"=1;}; "tile-type"="recents-tile";}'** in *Terminal*.



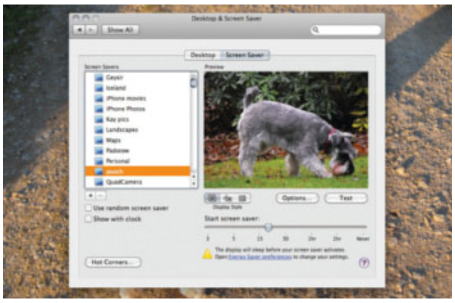
06 Update your desktop

To change your desktop to one of Apple's pictures, expand the Apple category in the sidebar, select a folder and click an image in the right pane. Scroll down to choose an *iPhoto* album. Check **Change picture** to make the image change to another from the folder.



07 Add custom backgrounds

Choose custom backgrounds without using *iPhoto*: place some background images in a *Finder* folder and drag it to the left-hand pane. It will be added to the **Folders** section; you can choose a background in the same manner as selecting one of the built-in images.



08 Change your screensaver

Select **Screen Saver**. From the left-hand pane, choose a screensaver; click **Test** to preview it and use the slider to adjust how long it takes for it to appear. Alternatively, scroll down and select an *iPhoto* album to have its images display and cross-fade when your Mac's idle. ●

Where to buy your next Mac

If you're looking to buy a new Mac in time for the school or university term then there's no better place to buy it than from John Lewis

We all know that Apple products inspire creativity; and there really is no better computer to ensure your success in work, education or home use than an Apple Mac, or a better place to buy one than John Lewis. Apple's newly revamped line-up has everything you need inside a case that is both stylish, durable and designed to perfection. But it's not just about the design of the computer itself, it's also about the software that comes with it. With the combination of OS X and *iLife '11* pre-installed on every Mac, you have easy access to everything you need to make your projects really stand out from the crowd. You can create multimedia slideshows in *iPhoto*, for example, and even turn your field trips into gorgeous photo books that will give your projects the edge. With *iMovie* you can turn a few hastily shot pieces of video into incredibly professional-looking movies that will take your course work to the next level. And there's also *GarageBand*, which turns any Mac into a full-featured recording studio. It's all included and it's all about being creative, and your Mac will help you achieve what you want.

Macs also run Apple's amazing *iWork* suite, which includes *Pages*, a stylish word processor, *Keynote* for presentations, and *Numbers* – a great spreadsheet application. These three apps will have everything you need for turning in great-looking essays, delivering heart-stopping presentations and producing supporting documentation in the form of graphs and charts, all at a bargain price that is way cheaper than traditional office software.

We're sure we don't need to oversell you the benefits of getting a Mac; the only question is, where should you buy one? You have several different options to consider, but we think that John Lewis should be your number one destination. For a start, John Lewis is the only retailer that offers you a free two-year guarantee. This is a whole year more than the

>> NEW KIT / Visit a John Lewis store today to try out the full range of Macs

Apple iMac

82702329 / From £999

The perfect Mac for use in the home, the iMac is an all-in-one that's one of a kind. This 21.5-inch model features a full HD LED-backlit display that offers remarkable brightness. Movies, TV shows, websites, and photos all look stunning. It also sports a powerful 2.5GHz quad-core Core i5 processor.

Apple MacBook Pro

82712333 / From £999

The MacBook Pro is for serious performance on the go. Constructed from one piece of solid aluminium, the unique 'unibody' design is ultra-thin, beautifully streamlined, and durable. Get ready for pure typing bliss – the MacBook keyboard is solid, responsive and comfortable.

MacBook Air

82712329 / From £867

Nearly as thin as your finger but with an 11.6-inch widescreen display, the new MacBook Air is designed around flash storage for responsiveness and reliability. It offers a full-size keyboard and a large multi-touch trackpad. You'll also enjoy up to five hours of battery life from a single charge.

HP Photosmart Premium Wireless e-All-In-One Printer

89500332 / £179

You'll need a great printer to make sure your photo prints look stunning. This HP connects wirelessly, has a memory card reader and supports double-sided printing. It's also AirPrint compatible so can print from an iPad.

standard Apple Care, which requires that you pay more if you want to extend it further. This is a real benefit to consider when making your purchase. And don't forget that unlike many of today's online retailers, John Lewis has actual brick-and-mortar stores, often in locations which don't have an Apple Store. You can visit John Lewis to get hands-on with Apple products and chat to knowledgeable staff. They will be on hand with expert, impartial advice to help you choose the perfect Mac for your needs.

You can also be assured you're getting a good deal, thanks to John Lewis' Never Knowingly Undersold promise, which means it won't be beaten on price, quality or service. Never Knowingly Undersold also means that if you see or buy a product online or find it cheaper with a high street competitor (whether or not they also sell online), as long as their service conditions are comparable, then John Lewis will match that price for you or refund the difference*.

> *"John Lewis is the only retailer to give you a full two-year guarantee as standard. That's a real benefit"*

And you're not left on your own once you've made your purchase either. You'll also get free access to a 90-day helpline for reassurance. If anything goes wrong then John Lewis will be there to help.

Once you've made your decision about which Mac to get you'll probably want to get some accessories to go with it. There are so many great add-ons you can get for a Mac these days (just take a look at the box below for some ideas!) and John Lewis has everything you need right there in store for you to take your pick from. There's also a huge selection of accessories available online at www.johnlewis.com. In fact, why not fire up your web browser and take a look right now?

John Lewis has all the latest models in store for you to try out.

Get started today!

There are three ways to get started with John Lewis: online you can visit **www.johnlewis.com** which has buyers' guides for ease of shopping. Alternatively you can go into a shop to speak to someone and get more advice. Finally you can shop on your mobile – visit **www.johnlewis.com** on your smartphone and you'll get a special mobile version of the site that makes it easy to use.

*Our commitment to value means that we match the prices of high street competitors (this excludes online-only or mail order businesses). Service conditions must be comparable. See our 'Never Knowingly Undersold' leaflet in our shops or online for details.

>> ACCESSORIES / John Lewis has a great range of Mac accessories on offer

Incase 17" Pebble & Aqua Sling Sleeve

70461503 / £49.95

A sleeve with shoulder strap and front pockets for up to 17-inch MacBook Pro. Constructed using durable weather-resistant nylon, this sleeve offers premium protection for your laptop while remaining unobtrusive, thanks to a slender design. The nylon handles can be concealed for convenience.

Orla Kiely 15" Multi Stem MacBook Sleeve

70461104 / £65

For up to 15" MacBook Pro, this sleeve with its iconic pattern design means you'll look great wherever you go. Constructed from matt laminate, the shoulder bag features an internal padded pocket that will ensure your laptop remains scratch-free. A patch pocket stores your mobile phone too.

InCase 13" Sleeve Blue/ Corn Flower

70461505 / £35

Protect your Mac from bumps and scratches, with the great neoprene cover from InCase. For 13" MacBook Pro and MacBook, this stylish sleeve comes with faux fur lining for a snug fit. There are no straps to get in the way, so it pops straight in your carry bag. Also available in pink and grey.

SeeThru Clear for Mac 13"

70470904 / £39.95

This is a great way of protecting your new Mac while still keeping it looking like... a Mac! This one is for the 13-inch MacBook Pro, but there's also one available for the 15-inch model. It has a smooth semi-translucent finish with a 'grippy' edge, and yes, you can still see the Apple logo glow once it has been fitted!

Words: Al Stonebridge

Top 30 Lion tips

Take control of your Mac's newly refined operating system with these time-saving, efficiency-gaining tips

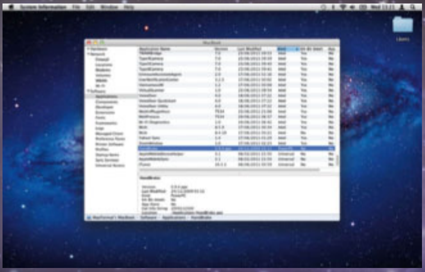
With over 250 new features packed into Lion, there's a lot to learn to get the most out of it. Our tips will help you master the headline features in next to no time.

That includes Mission Control, which gathers Exposé, Spaces and the *Dashboard* into a single location where you can manage all of the apps and windows that are open on your Mac. With the power of several features consolidated in one place, our power tips will aid you in understanding the differences between Snow Leopard and Lion.

You'll also learn how to undo some of the more confusing changes in Lion; changes that may leave you baffled. You'll even discover how to make a disk unreadable without entering a password.

Before you install Lion, we strongly recommend making a full backup. Include in that a copy of the Lion installer so that you don't have to download it again. It gets removed from the Applications folder at the end of installation.

GUGGENHEIM
CAPO
reeder



Use the System Profiler to seek out PowerPC apps.

Before installing

01 Rosetta, which allows PowerPC apps to run on Intel Macs, isn't part of Lion. In *System Profiler*, select Applications and look for rows whose kind is PowerPC. You should still check with the publisher of other apps, especially maintenance tools, for known issues. Some universal apps require Rosetta to install; *Microsoft Office 2008* is one. Select the installer, choose File > Get Info and check the file's kind doesn't say 'PowerPC'.

Organise Launchpad

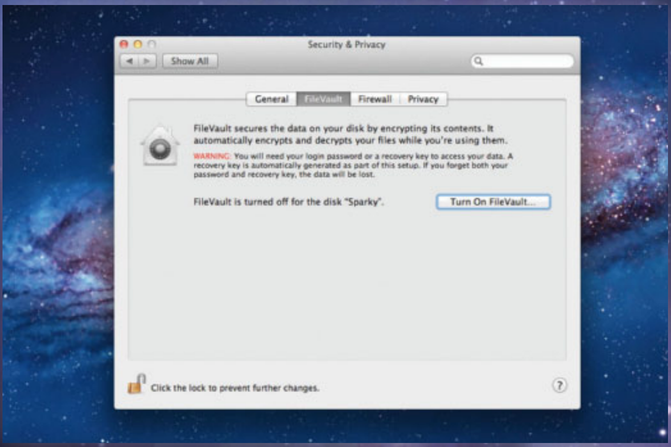
02 The App Store puts shortcuts in Launchpad. Open it by pinching with three fingers and a thumb on a trackpad, via its Dock icon, or by assigning a shortcut in System Preferences > Keyboard > Keyboard Shortcuts > Launchpad and Dock. ⌘+esc is free now *Front Row* is gone. Rearrange icons by click-holding one until they all jiggle. Drag one onto another to group them, and to the screen's right edge to arrange over pages.

Like on your iPhone, hold icons to make them wiggle.

Launchpad doesn't seem to be all that customisable yet.

Tidy up and uninstall

03 All apps on your Mac appear in Launchpad, including uninstallers stored in the Applications folder. There's no way to remove the unwanted icons. For now, the best option is to gather them in folders and move them to an unused page. When rearranging icons, the cross at the top-left corner of apps from the App Store removes them from your Mac. Others must be removed with their uninstaller or by moving them to the Trash.



FileVault secures the data on your disk by encrypting its contents. It automatically encrypts and decrypts your files while you're using them.

WARNING: You will need your login password or a recovery key to access your data. A recovery key is automatically generated as part of this setup. If you forget both your password and recovery key, the data will be lost.

FileVault is turned off for the disk "Sparky".

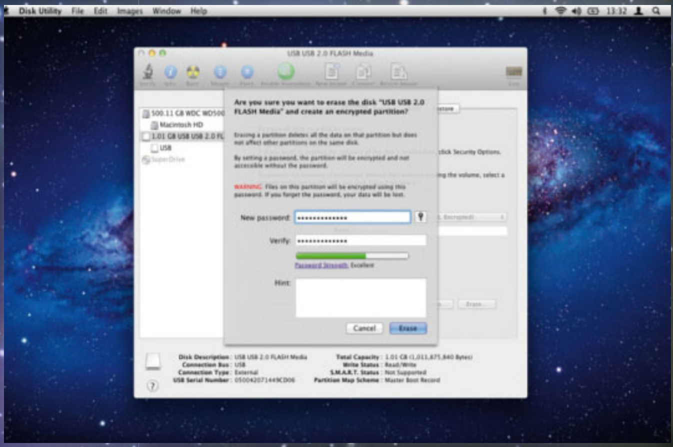
FileVault 2 now encrypts and decrypts with no noticeable lag in access speed.

Perform disk encryption

04 FileVault 2 encrypts the whole startup disk, not just user folders. It can be done without starting afresh, but make sure you've got a full backup. In System Preferences > Security & Privacy > FileVault, click Turn On FileVault and choose which users will be able to unlock the disk (typically you'll want all of them). Your Mac needs to restart to begin encrypting information. The process is temporarily suspended if an app needs extra power.

TIP #05

Click the arrows at a window's top-right to go full-screen. Reveal the menu bar to find the same button and switch back.



Are you sure you want to erase the disk "USB USB 2.0 FLASH Media" and create an encrypted partition?

Erasing a partition deletes all the data on that partition but does not affect other partitions on the same disk.

By setting a password, the partition will be encrypted and not accessible without the password.

WARNING: Files on this partition will be encrypted using this password. If you forget the password, your data will be lost.

New password: ••••••••••••••

Verify: ••••••••••••••

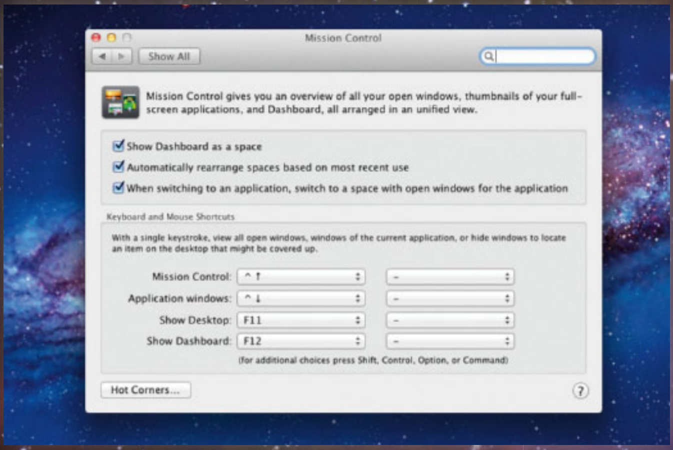
Password Strength: Excellent

Hint:

FileVault 2 can also encrypt external disks, but they must be erased of data first.

Encrypt a removable disk

06 Other disks can be encrypted but they must be erased beforehand. In *Disk Utility*, select a disk or partition in the left pane. Click the Erase tab and choose Mac OS Extended (Journaled, Encrypted) as the format. Press Erase and set a password. You'll need it to mount and read the disk on a Mac running Lion. Its contents can be wiped on other systems. For the first time, *Time Machine* backups can be encrypted on a regular hard drive. »


Mission Control

Show All

Mission Control gives you an overview of all your open windows, thumbnails of your full-screen applications, and Dashboard, all arranged in an unified view.

☑ Show Dashboard as a space

☑ Automatically rearrange spaces based on most recent use

☑ When switching to an application, switch to a space with open windows for the application

Keyboard and Mouse Shortcuts

With a single keystroke, view all open windows, windows of the current application, or hide windows to locate an item on the desktop that might be covered up.

Mission Control: ^ ↑ | –
Application windows: ^ ↓ | –
Show Desktop: F11 | –
Show Dashboard: F12 | –

(For additional choices press Shift, Control, Option, or Command)

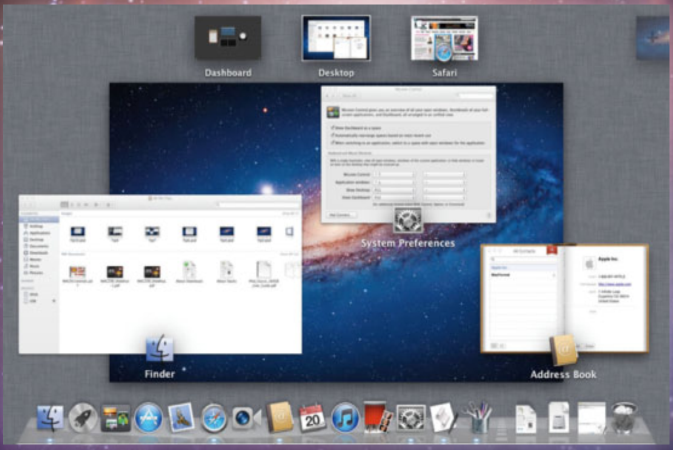
Mission Control is the marquee feature of OS X Lion, bringing together Spaces and Exposé.

Mission Control

07 Open Mission Control, the new hub for managing your workspace, with the Exposé key (F3) or ctrl and the ▲ arrow. Alternatively you can use two fingers to tap twice on a Magic Mouse's surface, or push up with three fingers on a notebook trackpad or a Magic Trackpad. Spaces are arranged in a row, above a preview of the most recent one used, which appears in the centre. Apple calls them desktops except in the Mission Control pane in *System Preferences*. We'll refer to them as spaces.

TIP #08

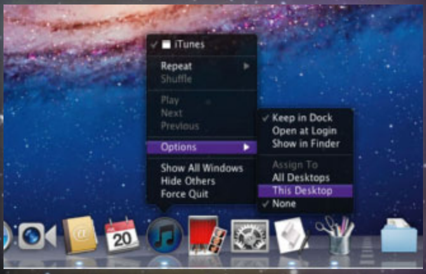
To close a space, roll over its thumbnail and click the cross that appears shortly after. Windows in it are moved elsewhere, not closed.



Mission Control does its best to help you find your windows by fanning them out.

Find a window

09 Windows contained in the current space are piled in more easily identifiable stacks. If there are many, move the pointer over a stack and spread apart three fingers and a thumb on a trackpad to fan them out. If you still can't spot the one you want, then – just as in Snow Leopard – roll over one and press the spacebar for a closer look. To look for windows in other spaces, swipe horizontally (with two fingers on a Magic Mouse, three on a trackpad) to slide between them.



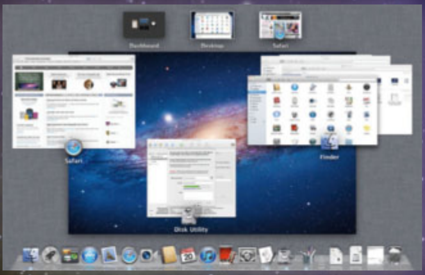
You can fix apps in certain spaces based on preference.

Manage your spaces

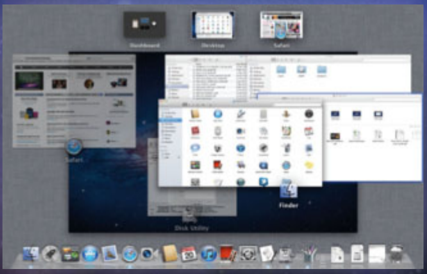
10 Jump straight to a space by clicking its thumbnail in Mission Control. If you don't use *Dashboard*, free up space by hiding it in System Preferences > Mission Control. Mission Control reorders spaces by which ones you use most often. They can be fixed in place in the same preference pane. The third option there keeps an app's windows in one space. Override it by right-clicking a Dock icon and creating a new window.

Creating new spaces

11 Create an empty space by moving the pointer to the top-right of Mission Control and clicking the semi-opaque space, marked with a plus, that rolls in from the right. Drag a window to that spot to move it to an empty space in one step, or drag it to an existing space's thumbnail to move it there. To move a whole app, click and drag the icon shown at the bottom of its stack and all of its windows will follow the pointer.



Move the mouse to the top-right to create a new space.



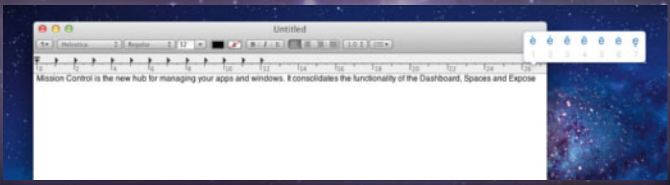
You can arrange which apps appear in which spaces.

Give apps some space

12 There's no longer anywhere in *System Preferences* to specify that you always want, say, *iChat* and *Twitter* to open in a space that you've set aside for chatting. Instead (after you've performed tip 11) right-click an app's Dock icon and look under Options. Three settings determine whether the app is able to appear in any space, is visible in all spaces (except those that contain full-screen apps), or only appears in the current space.

Special characters

13 Typing accented characters is straightforward now. Press and hold a letter to reveal its accented forms. Press the number beneath the one you want to type it. However, this doesn't work for symbols such as the various types of dash.


Untitled
Mission Control is the new hub for managing your apps and windows. It consolidates the functionality of the Dashboard, Spaces and Exposé

Just like iOS, holding down a letter on the keyboard reveals optional extra characters.

Full-screen mode

14 When you switch an app into full-screen mode, a new space is created exclusively for it, even if you've reached the maximum of 16 manually created spaces. The menu bar and some toolbars, such as *Safari*'s bookmarks bar, become hidden. Move the pointer to the top to reveal them. To reach the Dock, move to the bottom of the screen, pause a moment then try to move further down. Spaces running full-screen apps adopt their name and show their icon. Sadly you can't rename other spaces. They're stuck with the mundane default of 'Desktop' followed by a number.

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CLICK HERE TO READ A PREVIEW!
MAC NEWS
Win! a Canon 550D

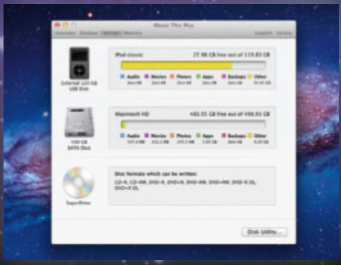
Full-screen apps get their own exclusive space, even if you've reached the limit.

TIP #16

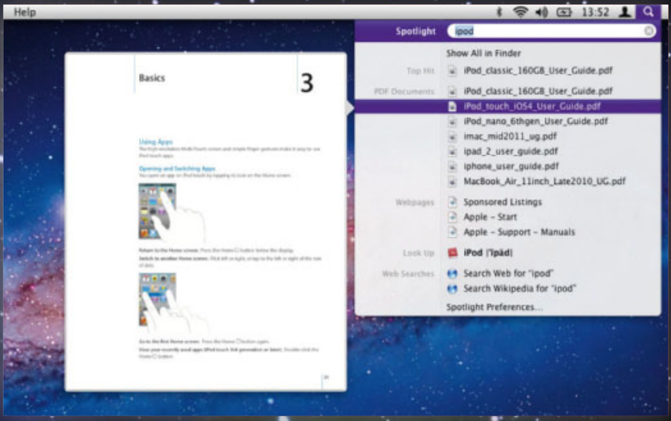
Get into the Library folder, now hidden, to deal with a troublesome font or other file by choosing Go > Go to Folder and enter ~/Library.

About your Mac

15 Click the Apple menu > About This Mac and press More Info for a friendly statistical summary of your Mac. Under Storage is an iPod-style breakdown of what's on each disk. Click Memory to remind yourself what slots are free and what type it takes.



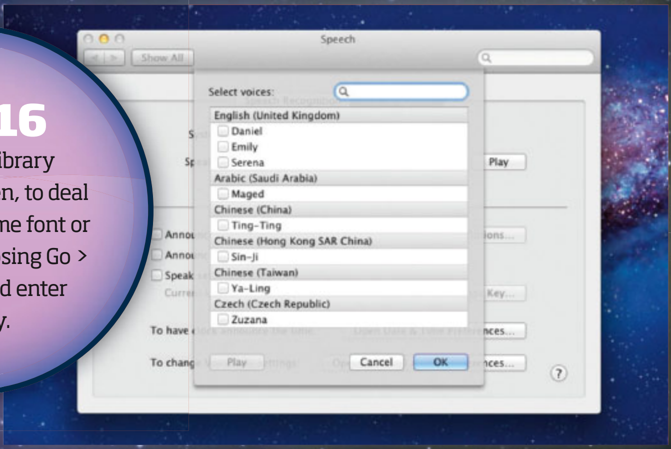
About This Mac has been overhauled in Lion.


Spotlight
ipod
Show All in Finder
Top Hit
PDF Documents
iPod_classic_160GB_User_Guide.pdf
iPod_touch_iOS4_User_Guide.pdf
iPod_nano_6thgen_User_Guide.pdf
imac_mid2011_ug.pdf
ipad_2_user_guide.pdf
iphone_user_guide.pdf
MacBook_Air_11inch_Late2010_UG.pdf
Webpages
Sponsored Listings
Apple - Start
Apple - Support - Manuals
Look Up
iPod (ˈīpäd)
Web Searches
Search Web for "ipod"
Search Wikipedia for "ipod"
Spotlight Preferences...
Basics
3

Searching in Spotlight now opens you up to a host of preview and information options.

Spotlight on your files

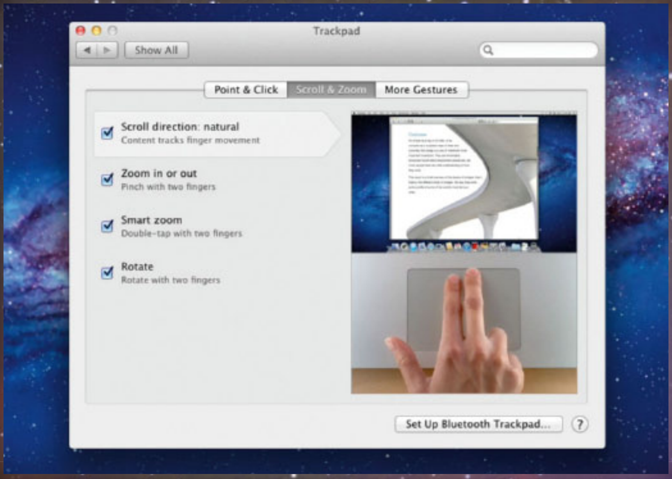
17 The Spotlight menu makes it easier to determine whether it's found the file you need. Roll over an item for a second and a preview will pop out of the menu's left side. An item can be dragged out of the list to copy it into an email or open it in a different application than the usual one. Furthermore, new items at the bottom of the menu let you search online and specifically on the Wikipedia site.


Speech
Show All
Select voices:
English (United Kingdom)
Daniel
Emily
Serena
Arabic (Saudi Arabia)
Maged
Chinese (China)
Ting-Ting
Chinese (Hong Kong SAR China)
Sin-Ji
Chinese (Taiwan)
Ya-Ling
Czech (Czech Republic)
Zuzana
Play
Cancel
OK

Choose a voice from the range that Apple now offers, but some may need downloading.

Less robotic voices

18 Lion can read text to you in a range of more natural-sounding voices, but they aren't installed by default. Sample them in System Preferences > Speech > Text to Speech by clicking the System Voice pop-up and choosing Customize. Select a row and click the Play button. Tick an adjacent box and press OK to download. A voice can be several hundred megabytes in size, so *Software Update* confirms how much before proceeding. We're particularly fond of Fiona, the Scottish lass, but there are a whole host of regional accents to choose from. »


Trackpad
Show All
Point & Click
Scroll & Zoom
More Gestures
Set Up Bluetooth Trackpad...
?

☑ Scroll direction: natural
Content tracks finger movement

☑ Zoom in or out
Pinch with two fingers

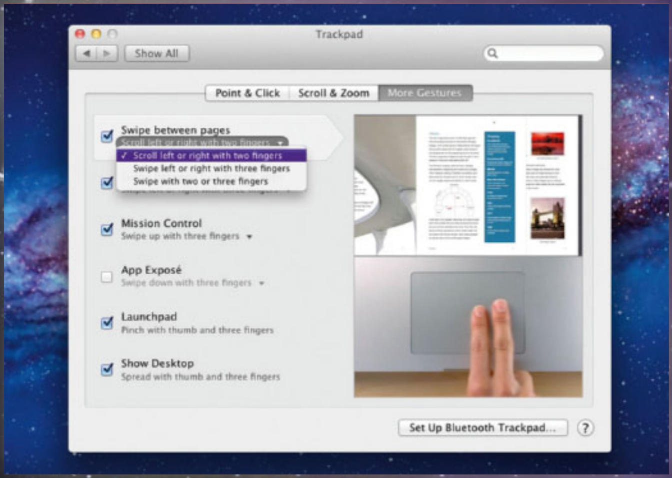
☑ Smart zoom
Double-tap with two fingers

☑ Rotate
Rotate with two fingers

If 'Natural Scrolling' feels to you anything but natural, simply revert to the classic way.

Restore normality

19 Scrolling is reversed in Lion to feel like you're pushing paper around, just like on iPad. Instead of moving a finger downwards to scroll that way, you push pages away from you. If it doesn't feel right, open *System Preferences* and untick 'Scroll direction: natural' in the Mouse and Trackpad panes.


Trackpad
Show All
Point & Click
Scroll & Zoom
More Gestures
Set Up Bluetooth Trackpad...
?

☑ Swipe between pages
Scroll left or right with two fingers
✓ Scroll left or right with two fingers
Swipe left or right with three fingers
Swipe with two or three fingers

☑ Mission Control
Swipe up with three fingers

☐ App Exposé
Swipe down with three fingers

☑ Launchpad
Pinch with thumb and three fingers

☑ Show Desktop
Spread with thumb and three fingers

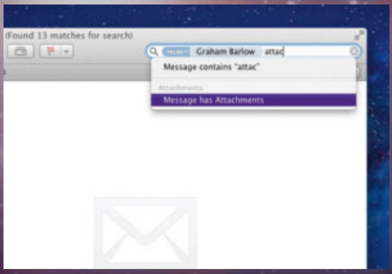
Plenty of gestures can be switched on or off, as well as adjusted to your liking.

More page pushing

20 The 'Swipe between pages' gesture influences page-based apps, including *Safari*. By default, you push the current page off to the right to uncover the previous one. Choose 'Swipe left or right with two fingers' to associate left with going back and right with going forwards, and to snap between pages instead of sliding them around. Pushing PDF pages might feel natural but Back in your browser is probably hard-wired to moving left by now, so the third setting allows both methods.

Focused searches

21 *Mail's* search bar suggests what you might be looking for. Selecting a suggestion turns it into a token that limits the search term to a specific attribute, cutting the need to set up Smart Mailbox rules. This also works in the *Finder*.

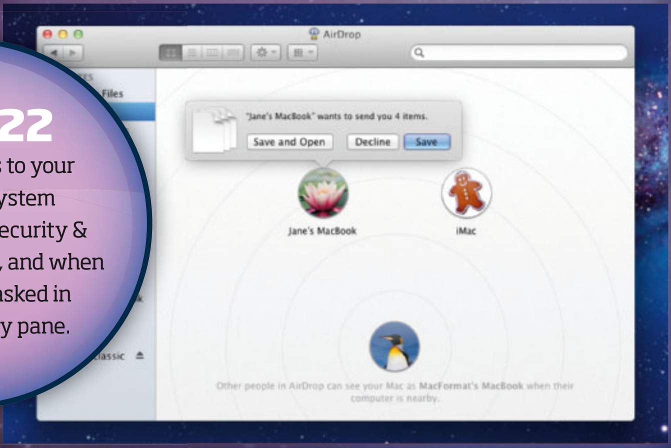

(Found 13 matches for search)
Attachments

Graham Barlow attac
Message contains "attac"
Message has Attachments

Use 'tokens' in Mail's search bar to refine results.

TIP #22

Monitor access to your location in System Preferences > Security & Privacy > Privacy, and when permission is asked in *Safari's* Privacy pane.


AirDrop
Files
Save and Open
Decline
Save
Jane's MacBook
iMac

"Jane's MacBook" wants to send you 4 items.

Other people in AirDrop can see your Mac as MacFormat's MacBook when their computer is nearby.

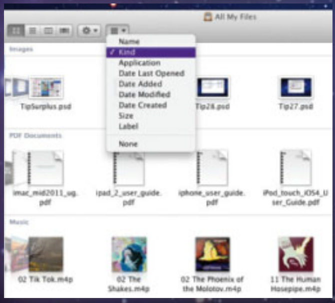
AirDrop is Apple's new method of sharing files across Macs that are in close proximity.

Sharing files

23 AirDrop is a quick way to share files with someone nearby. You needn't be on the same network, and it doesn't interrupt an existing Wi-Fi connection. Click AirDrop in the *Finder's* sidebar and your account icon appears to others who have done the same. Drag files onto someone's icon and the files are copied to their Downloads folder as soon as they confirm the transfer. The passive Drop Box method for sharing across a network is still available. Create a folder and add it to the list in System Preferences > File Sharing with write-only access for everyone else.

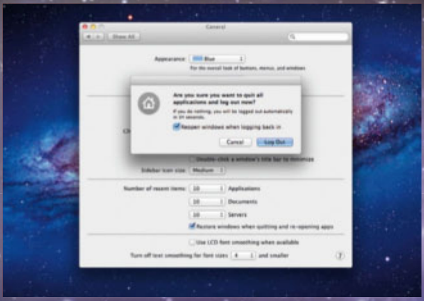
Sort your files

24 The *Finder's* Arrange button groups files by name, kind, size and other attributes. Keyboard shortcuts are shown under View > Arrange By. Files are grouped under headings so they're easier to browse. Use Icon view for a Cover Flow view. Click Show All at their top-right to expand into a traditional grid arrangement.


All My Files
Images
PDF Documents
Music
TipSurplus.psd
Tip28.psd
Tip27.psd
imac_mid2011_ug.pdf
ipad_2_user_guide.pdf
iphone_user_guide.pdf
iPod_touch_iOS4_User_Guide.pdf
02 Tik Tok.m4p
02 The Shakes.m4p
02 The Phoenix of the Molotov.m4p
11 The Human Hosepipe.m4p

Name
✓ Kind
Application
Date Last Opened
Date Added
Date Modified
Date Created
Size
Label
None

Finder offers a number of Arrange options.



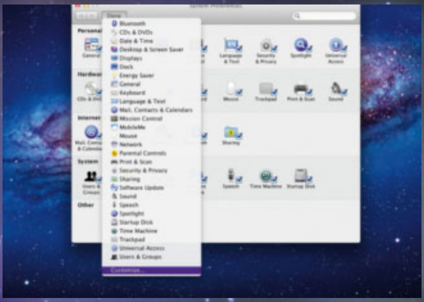
Resume restarts your Mac as if you had never shut down.

Resuming your work

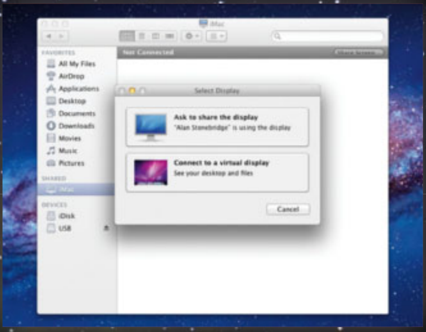
25 Resume restores your apps and windows when you next log in. It can take a while to reopen apps on slow Macs. Untick the box shown when logging out or shutting down to stop it happening. Apps updated to work with Resume remember which documents were open. If a damaged document causes problems when opening an app, untick the option in System Preferences > General.

Clean up preferences

26 Got too many preference panes to deal with? You can hide those that are rarely or never used by clicking and holding the Show All button. When a list of available panes appears, choose Customize… at the bottom and checkboxes will appear next to every pane. Click Done and those you've unticked will disappear. They still appear in the list when you press and hold Show All.



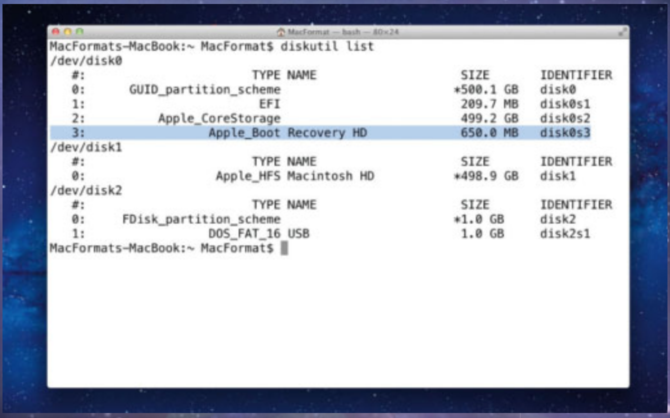
Too many preference panes? So hide some of them!



You can share another Mac's screen with little hassle.

Share a Mac

27 Trying to share another Mac's screen gives you two options. You can request to share the person's desktop of whoever is logged in and remotely take control of it, or you can log into another account to access files. When sharing with someone else, control of the mouse and keyboard can be relinquished back to them by choosing View > Switch to Observe Mode, so that you don't accidentally interfere.



```
MacFormats-MacBook:~ MacFormat$ diskutil list
/dev/disk0
   #:                       TYPE NAME                    SIZE       IDENTIFIER
   0:      GUID_partition_scheme                        *500.1 GB   disk0
   1:                        EFI                         209.7 MB   disk0s1
   2:          Apple_CoreStorage                         499.2 GB   disk0s2
   3:                 Apple_Boot Recovery HD             650.0 MB   disk0s3
/dev/disk1
   #:                       TYPE NAME                    SIZE       IDENTIFIER
   0:                  Apple_HFS Macintosh HD           *498.9 GB   disk1
/dev/disk2
   #:                       TYPE NAME                    SIZE       IDENTIFIER
   0:     FDisk_partition_scheme                        *1.0 GB     disk2
   1:                 DOS_FAT_16 USB                     1.0 GB     disk2s1
MacFormats-MacBook:~ MacFormat$ 
```

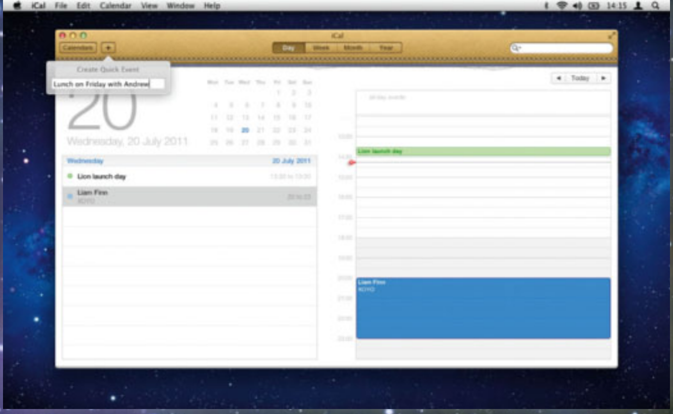
Unlike previous versions of OS X, Lion creates a hidden recovery partition on your disk.

Recovery mode

28 Lion creates an extra volume on your startup disk that contains *Disk Utility* and other maintenance tools. This also includes *Safari* so that you can access online support information if OS X fails to start. You can't see this volume in the *Finder* or the Startup Disk preference pane by default. However, if you want to access it, simply hold ⌘+R at startup. You'll see it listed as 'Recovery HD' when you type 'diskutil list' in *Terminal*. While this partition clearly takes up space on your drive, it's crucial that you don't try to delete it, otherwise you could be removing the last method of restoring your Mac.

TIP #29

Spread two fingers to zoom arbitrarily in *Safari*. Double-tap – one finger on mouse, two on trackpad – to intelligently zoom around the pointer.



Lunch on Friday with Andrew

iCal will do its best to understand and complete phrases that you input into the diary.

Add events in English

30 Click the + button located in *iCal's* top-left corner to add an event based on the phrase in your head, and allow *iCal* to separate out the information. Or at least that's the theory. The function works well with simple phrases, but it does occasionally have difficulty picking out locations. It can also be a little picky about the way you word things – just think 'consistency'. 'From 7pm until 8:30pm' is correctly interpreted, but 'from 7pm for 90 minutes' adds an hour-long event, for example. ●

Q&A

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to withering wireless, Luis Villazon can help.

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline @futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"Guitar Hero in GarageBand – will the guitar work?"

Q I've got *GarageBand* and I want to plug a guitar into my Mac to play music. I have a wireless *Guitar Hero* set for the Xbox; is there a way to plug the guitar or the drums into my Mac?

Paul Byrne

It looks like a guitar, it sounds like a guitar, but unfortunately, it's still just a games controller.

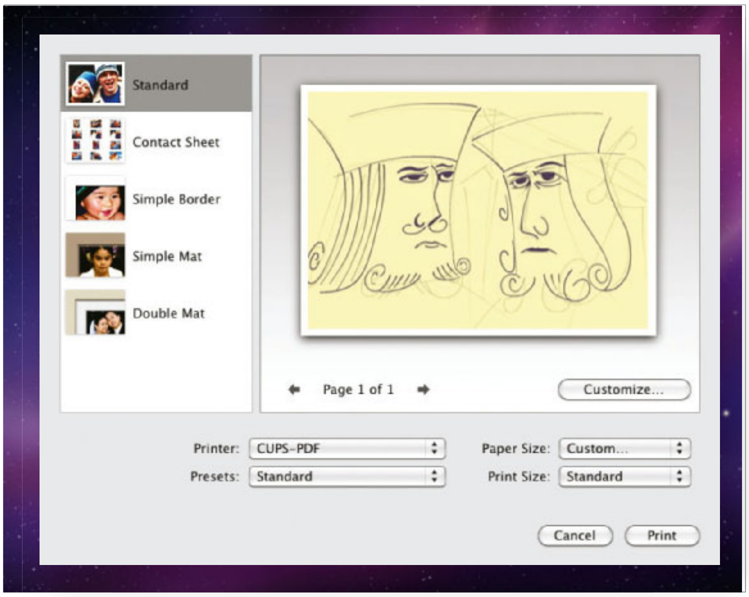
A Plugging an electric guitar into *GarageBand* is easy: just use a 1/4th to 1/8th converter plug for the guitar lead and plug it into the Line In port on your Mac, although you get better results by going through a preamp. Set the audio prefs in *GarageBand* to use the Line In instead of the built-in mic and away you go. The thing is, a *Guitar Hero* guitar isn't really an actual guitar at all. It's just an XBox controller in a guitar-shaped plastic box. You can use the XBox 360 controller driver from **www.tattiebogle.net** to connect the guitar to the Mac and the *Gamepad Companion* (available on the App Store for £4.99) to map the buttons on the controller, to keys on the keyboard. If you set up *Garage Band* to play guitar chords or notes when you hit these keys, you could use the guitar controller to play them and there are some videos on YouTube of people who have done just that. Actually, there are an awful lot of videos like that so it's obviously quite a popular hack. But really, all you've done is create a 5-button 'Keytar' with some other buttons scattered around the guitar body. The strum button doesn't actually strum anything, for example; it's just another button.

The drum kit is more promising, since the *Guitar Hero World Tour* and *Rock Band 2* drums have velocity-sensitive pads that you play in exactly the same way as you would a synth drum kit. If you use something like *Osculator* (about £30, **www.osculator.net**) you can take the midi signal from the drum kit and connect it to the appropriate drum sounds in *GarageBand*. You'll need to be realistic about your expectations though; this is still a game controller and it will lag more than a dedicated synth drum kit, so keeping the drum beat synchronised might prove to be tricky.

Aperture is Apple's app for organising your photos. Think of it as a step up from iPhoto.

"Aperture 3 quits about 10 seconds after opening it"

Q I have a major headache with *Aperture 3*. After my last import of 351 photos taken on a Nikon D90 in raw format, it has suddenly started to quit about 10 seconds after I open it. I get an error message saying that a report has been sent to Apple but when I open *Aperture* up again, it quits and repeats the message. I have tried removing *ProApps* to the desktop and re-entering the serial number, as advised in Apple's forum, but this has not worked. When I installed the *Nikon Software* suite, this also quit and gave an error message. *iPhoto '11* is installed and runs okay; I have managed to import 85 of 351



Printer: CUPS-PDF
Presets: Standard
Paper Size: Custom...
Print Size: Standard

One day, cameras, monitors and paper will all have the same aspect ratio. If only...

images of the last import from *Aperture* to *iPhoto*.
George Davies

A Here are a couple of things to try. First, go to http://support.apple.com/kb/DL1315 to download the *Aperture 3.1.1* update manually and try reinstalling that. If that doesn't help, it's possible that there's something odd about that last batch of 351 pictures that is causing the crash. Right-click the Aperture Library in ~/Pictures and choose Show Package Contents. Copy either the entire thing or just the last import somewhere safe as a backup, and then delete them from the package. Now restart *Aperture* with ⌘ and ⌥ held down. This will bring up the first aid dialog and you can repair or rebuild the database to make the library consistent with the changes you have just made. This can take quite a while, so be patient. If *Aperture* starts properly after that, our corrupted photo hypothesis is probably correct and you can start re-importing the photos, a few at a time, until you find the culprit.

"Matching photo ratios to iPhoto printouts is hard"

Q Can you tell me if I can stop *iPhoto* cropping my photos when I try to print them? It's very annoying having spent a lot of time editing and composing the pictures. Is there an alternative way of sending the pics to the printer?
Brian Woolf

A This happens because the aspect ratio of a standard camera frame is 4:3 and the aspect ratio of an A4 sheet of paper is 297:210, which is roughly 4:2.8. If you print your photos full-page, *iPhoto* adjusts the image so that it runs right to the margins and that means cropping the top and bottom edges. If you select a print size that has a 4:3 ratio then this won't happen and instead you'll get borders around the edges. Unfortunately, none of the default print sizes has this ratio – probably because they were chosen to match the standard picture frame sizes. (No, I don't know why it has to be so complicated.)

There are two ways around this. You can crop the photos yourself beforehand: tick the Constrain box and select a custom ratio of 297x210. This obviously still chops off part of the picture, but at least this way you get to control which part. Alternatively, you can set a custom print size on the print dialog. The sub-dialog that pops up will display the maximum printable dimensions of your paper (which will vary from printer to printer). If you take the value for height and multiply it by four and then divide by three and enter that in the width box, you will create the largest print size that fits on your page while still keeping to the preferred 4:3 ratio.

»

Bluetooth audio perk

Ian Osborne

To date, Bluetooth hasn't been the format of choice for audio-streaming connoisseurs. But perhaps this will change with aptX, a Bluetooth codec that reached the Macs last year to surprisingly little publicity.

aptX was created by Belfast-based company APTX, now part of Cambridge personal wireless technology specialist CSR PLC. It was introduced to OS X with the Magic Trackpad update, released as a supplemental to OS X 10.6.4 at the end of July 2010. It wasn't well publicised. Apple's support page for the update doesn't mention aptX at all. The codec went native to OS X with version 10.6.5 in November of last year, again without fanfare. As yet it hasn't been incorporated into iOS, but maybe that will change with the release of iOS 5.

The aptX codec is designed to transmit CD-quality sounds over Bluetooth. According to Conran Audio, whose aptX-compatible speaker dock was reviewed last issue, it's 'fast becoming the next must-have technology feature in high-end consumer audio devices with Bluetooth Stereo capability'. Sennheiser was first on the market with a set of aptX-enabled stereo headphones released in early 2010. Since then we've had aptX headsets from Jaybird, Samsung and Logitec of Japan. Altec Lansing favours aptX for the inMotion Air, and Creative Labs uses it extensively in its wireless range. We're told several more manufacturers are to come on board over the next year.

> *"The aptX codec is designed to transmit CD-quality sounds over Bluetooth. It offers a significant improvement"*

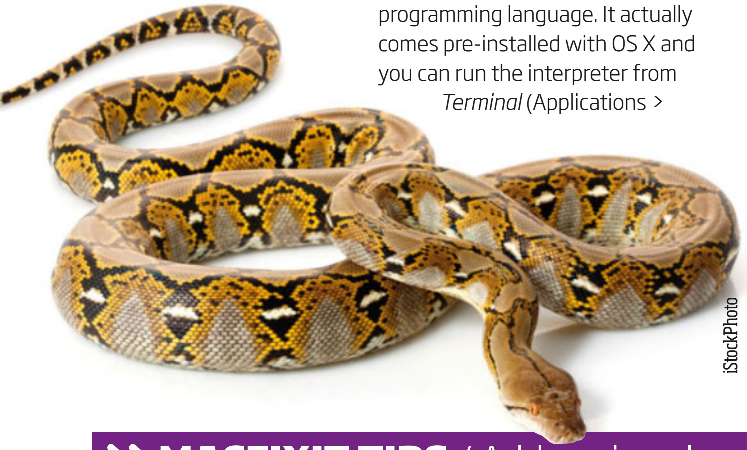
We put aptX to the test using the Conran Audio Speaker Dock, and found it gives a noticeable and significant improvement. The sound was more complete and better defined, with every instrument in Humphrey Lyttelton's jazz band realised with more precision, and Ray Charles' inimitable vocals clearer and more distinct. It's a bit like replacing a heavily compressed MP3 with a better-encoded one.

There's a couple of useful aptX-related mini-apps you can download for free from the 'Enjoy your Music Wirelessly' section of the Conran Audio website (**http://bit.ly/mEZRJD**). *Audio Codec Change* lets you switch between the aptX codec and more common SBC Bluetooth codecs, and a menu sits in your menu bar and displays which streaming codec is in use. If you do choose to try it out, let us know how you get on. ●

Ian Osborne has been playing the same tracks over and over in the office to test the aptX streaming codec. We now have him locked in a cupboard (but allow him out to write this column).

»QUICK TIP

⌘ To show or hide hidden files in **Open** or **Save** file dialogs, hit ⌘+⇧+. . To show them always, in *Terminal* type **defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles -bool YES**, then type **killall Finder**.


iStockPhoto

If you want an easy, free, powerful programming language for the Mac, Python (www.python.org) is much better than BASIC.

"Where can I find a decent BASIC interpreter?"

Q Two years ago for my 75th birthday, my wife and step-children gave me a MacBook Pro. It's my first ever Mac as I have been in the WinTel PC world since 1960. One of my primary uses on my old PC was a BASIC interpreter that I used to knock out quick simulations and mathematical models in pursuit of interests of mine. Now I cannot find a good, easy-to-use BASIC intepreter for my MacBook. My local Mac store recommended Chipmunk, but I do not find it easy to use.

Dr Thomas Kelemen-Beatty, DD, BFHM

There are indeed several ways for die-hard lovers of BASIC to get going on their Macs.

A Programming in BASIC these days is a bit like driving a horse and trap; you'd really only do it for nostalgic, aesthetic or religious reasons. Python is probably a better choice for an easy-to-learn programming language. It actually comes pre-installed with OS X and you can run the interpreter from *Terminal* (Applications > Utilities > Terminal) by just typing 'python' at the command line. The OS X development cycle means that the pre-installed version is always a couple of years out of date though, so it is better to download the latest version from www.python.org.

If you are determined to stick with BASIC, you have a few options besides Chipmunk. Brandy Basic V (http://mdfs.net) is an interpreter for the BBC BASIC that shipped with the old BBC Micro and it has an OS X version that supports graphics. Or there is JBasic, which is a BASIC interpreter written in Java that you can run from *Terminal*. You can get that from http://jbasic.net. Finally, if you can't find anything that you like as much as your old Windows version, there's nothing to stop you using *Boot Camp* to install the Windows licence from your old PC and booting into that whenever you want to do some programming.

"How do I make the text bigger on my screen?"

Q I'm still relatively new to my Mac and at the point when this forty-something's eyes begin to suffer. I'm not sure whether to keep swapping spectacles, or give up struggling and wear bifocals. As such, one of the features that attracted me to an iMac was the prospect of the 27-inch screen and the idea that I could see my documents, web browser and other apps with ease. I may be missing something, but every program I open has very small text

»MACFIXIT TIPS / Addressing slow sleep times in OS X

Putting a system to sleep is far more convenient than shutting it down between uses. This is because it allows you to save the machine's running state, to quickly pick up from where you left off without having to load the OS and programs again. While sleeping is usually a fairly quick process, sometimes problems can occur that cause it to take a long time or even hang. In these cases, even if you close a laptop's screen the system will stay running, and will either just continue to run fine or not respond to user input.

Unfortunately, sleep problems can be rooted in a number of different areas, so it may be difficult to pinpoint a specific cause, but luckily you can do a number of tasks to hopefully correct the problem.

Run maintenance routines

A general task you can always do whenever a system is running slower than normal, is to perform general maintenance routines, which include correcting permissions issues and clearing temporary files and caches. In doing a general maintenance routine, you will boot to Safe Mode. Here you might try putting the system to sleep to see if it happens quicker when the system is not loading third-party extensions and add-ons you may have installed.

Reset PRAM and SMC

The system's parameter RAM (PRAM) and system management controller (SMC) both contain hardware settings that may influence how the system sleeps. Resetting them will establish default settings again, which may help clear a long sleep instance. To reset the PRAM, restart the computer with the ⌥+⌘+P+R keys held down. Hold the keys until the system automatically rests a couple of times, and then release them and allow the system to boot normally. To reset the SMC, see this Apple article: **http://bit.ly/cdqHUg**.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MACFIXIT TIPS / Sleep issues continued: check peripheral devices

If you have peripheral devices attached to your system, ensure they are not the cause of the sleep problems. Sometimes an active peripheral device can delay shutdowns and sleeps: try unplugging them before sleeping to see if the delays go away. If so, try looking further into each device's settings or drivers to see about fixing the problems.

Print jobs

If you have active print jobs or ones that are showing errors, the system may also take a long time to sleep. Go to your **Print & Fax** *System Preferences*, select your printer(s), and then click the **Open Print Queue** button to show the print jobs. Cancel any that have not completed, and try putting your computer to sleep.

Adjust system services

As with active print jobs, activity in other background services can cause the system to hang or pause when performing tasks like shutting down or sleeping. You can troubleshoot these by turning off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth a few seconds before putting the system to sleep, or by disabling any sharing services you have enabled in the **Sharing** *System Preferences*. Even if you do not have any active sharing sessions, if there is a problem with one of these services then it may still keep the system awake when trying to sleep.

Check hardware settings

OS X supports a number of options for putting the system to sleep, including keeping the system alive in RAM but running at a low-power state, or by writing the RAM's contents to the hard drive so the system can essentially be shut off to save even more power. The setting that determines this is the 'hybernatemode' setting in the System Management Controller, which can be checked by running the command **pmset -g** in the *Terminal*. When this is run you should see a list of the SMC's variables, and hybernatemode should be at its default setting of '3' on laptops, and '0' on desktop systems. If it's not, then run the following command in the *Terminal* to change the setting:

```
sudo pmset -a
hybernatemode NUMBER
```

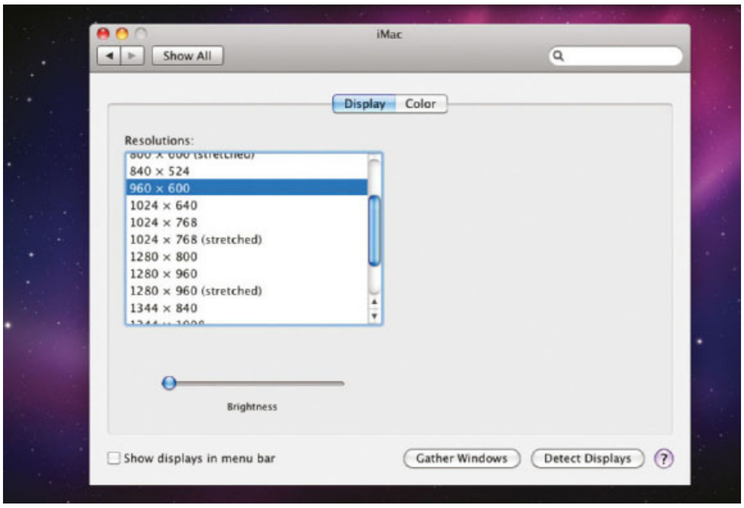
You can also try removing the system's sleep image file. This will cause the system to re-create the file when next in sleep mode. Run the following command in the *Terminal*:

sudo rm /var/vm/sleepimage.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

and only opens in a window in the corner of the screen. I've utilised the Right Zoom application as recommended in issue 235 to avoid constant resizing, but it doesn't really do the trick. How can I make all my applications full-size? I've tried changing the font preferences on *Safari* for example, but they don't appear correctly in certain instances. Windows *Excel* opens at 100% and I have the option to increase manually, but I cannot determine how to set it as a default. Other applications I use regularly are *Mail*, *Word* and sometimes their counterparts in *iWorks*.

Paul Smith, Nottingham



Rather than increasing the size of your font, why not just double the size of every pixel?

A I get asked this question a lot and usually it is from people switching up to a really big screen for the first time. It takes a while to get used to the idea that full-screen applications on a 27-inch screen don't usually make much sense. You can fit two A4 pages side-by-side at 100% scale with room to spare and with the screen 50cm from your eyes, your field of view isn't wide enough to take in the whole width without scanning back and forth anyway.

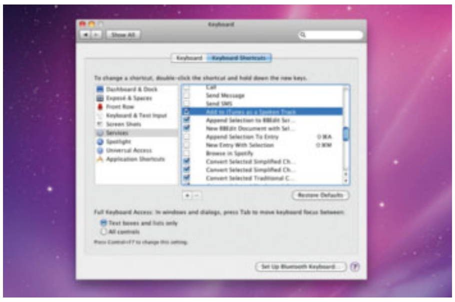
Once you set the size of a window by manually dragging it, the dimensions should be saved to the preference file for next time. This is a user interface convention that is followed by MS Office apps and almost all Apple software but it is something that needs to be coded into each application and there is no way for you to enforce the rule. Some applications, such as *Scrivener*, have a full-screen mode, but this is more about blanking everything else out to reduce distractions than actually scaling the text to more than normal.

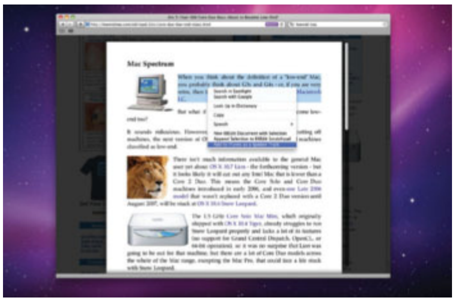
Increasing the font size in documents isn't a very good solution. In a word processor or an email application, you are affecting the way your document will look to other people, unless you remember to drop the font size right at the end. If you use the zoom function in your web browser, it can break the layout of some web pages and lots of page elements are rendered as graphics anyway and won't zoom. A much better solution is to just drop your screen resolution in the Displays preference panel. A 27-inch screen has a native resolution of 1920x1200. If you change this to 960x600, every pixel now gets rendered as a block of four on the screen. You'll lose some crispness around the edges but the aspect ratio stays the same; everything gets zoomed regardless of the application, and it is very quick to change back and forth between resolutions if you need to.

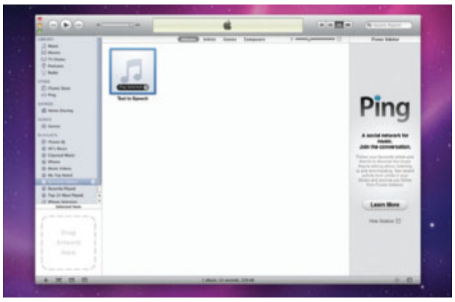
QUICK TIP

Safari 5 will identify certain text-heavy pages with the 'Reader' tag on the address bar. You can click this tag to switch the display to a more streamlined view for easier reading. Or you can use the keyboard shortcut for this browser feature, which is ⌘+⇧+R.

HOW TO / Convert text to a spoken MP3







01 Enable

OS X can convert text to a spoken MP3 track, but it's disabled in 10.6 (it's enabled by default in Lion). To enable it, open **Keyboard** preferences and select **Keyboard Shortcuts**. Click **Services** in the left pane and scroll down to 'Add to iTunes as a Spoken Track'.

02 Select

Once you've ticked that box you'll see a new item on the right-click context menu. Any time you have some text highlighted on the screen, right-click the selection and choose **Add to iTunes as a Spoken Track**. If *iTunes* isn't already open it will launch.

03 Listen

There will be a short delay with a spinning cog icon on the menu bar as the text is processed and then a new track called 'Text to Speech' is added to your library. Bear in mind that some apps override the OS X **Services** menu and don't let you do this. ●

QUICK TIP

Connect to your Facebook pals using *iChat* by creating a new account in *iChat* preferences. Set the account type to **Jabber**, the account name to **<yourfacebook username>@chat.facebook.com**, the server to **chat.facebook.com** and the port to **5222**.

"Issues with startup time after upgrading drive"

Q **I have a MacBook Pro whose hard drive I recently swapped to upgrade to an SSD drive. The drive works great and is very fast, although the startup time from boot isn't as fast as it is on my MacBook Air. I think this is because the boot drive was cloned and restored from a *SuperDuper!* copy, but I think it would have been best to install the operating system cleanly and then reinstall the applications. I think this is fairly easily done but for my key data such as email, *Safari* bookmarks and so on, I really wanted to be able to restore these back to their original state. I use *Time Machine* for backups as well.**

Can you suggest the best way to perform a full rebuild, and which core data folders and apps to restore after the reinstall?

Steve Clarke

A I doubt a clean install of OS X will achieve much, unless you have a lot of fonts or apps that get loaded at startup. It's more likely the Air has more RAM, which allows more of the OS to be accessed from there, instead of swapping back and forth from the SSD.

Still, if you want to perform a clean install, *Time Machine* makes it easy to do. Boot your MacBook from the OS X installation DVD and use *Disk Utilities* on the Tools menu to erase the disk. Then perform a full install and run *Software Update* to patch it fully. Now

MACFIXIT TIPS / Blu-ray playback comes to OS X

Apple has long claimed the complex licensing for Blu-ray playback has been partly to blame for the lack of Blu-ray support in Macs. But the ability to create and burn Blu-ray movies has been readily available with tools such as *Final Cut Pro* and *Toast Titanium*. It's more likely that Apple's reluctance to support Blu-ray revolves around its competition with Apple's preferred streaming solutions.

Despite the controversies and frustrations with Apple's support of Blu-ray, native playback is finally here. Recently, developer Macgo released a new media player aptly named Mac Blu Ray Player, which is the first to bring full Blu-ray playback support to OS X. All you need to get Blu-ray up and running is the following:

1. A Blu-ray drive, which can either be internal (likely easier and cheaper for Mac Pro systems), or external. These can be purchased at places like Other World Computing or NewEgg.

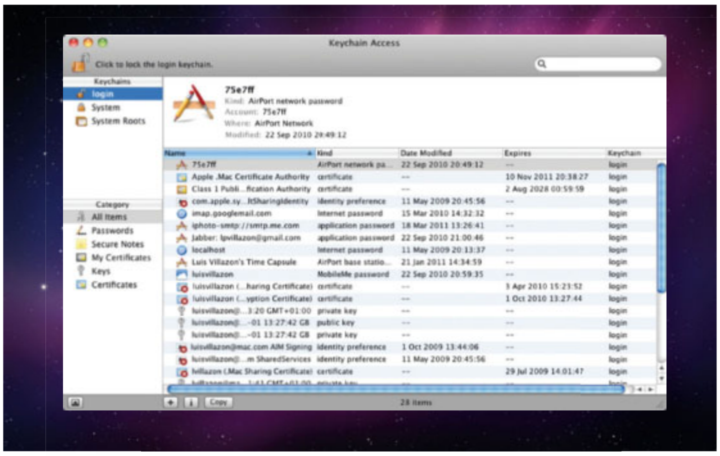
2. Mac Blu Ray Player software, which can be downloaded from the Macgo website.

The player is a simple drag-and-drop install and works by managing Blu-ray licensing through the Internet, so when you insert a disc and open it with the player, the system will manage the Advanced Access Content System keys and other content management features through the Macgo servers. Unfortunately this means there are some limitations, such as not being able to play the movies if you have no internet connection.

The Mac Blu-ray player comes in a trial version that offers a free 3-month playback. During this time the player will put a watermark on the screen and some features may be disabled, but with the $39.95 license for the software, you should be able to play your movies in full.

Keep in mind that this is new software in its version 1.0 release, and while it should work, it may have some issues. The developer has a FAQ available in which it does mention a few workarounds for crashes and errors that may pop up when using the software.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com


Keychain Access
Click to lock the login keychain.
Keychains
login
System
System Roots
Category
All Items
Passwords
Secure Notes
My Certificates
Keys
Certificates
Copy
28 items

75e7ff
Kind: AirPort network password
Account: 75e7ff
Where: AirPort Network
Modified: 22 Sep 2010 20:49:12

Name	Kind	Date Modified	Expires	Keychain
75e7ff	AirPort network pa...	22 Sep 2010 20:49:12	--	login
Apple .Mac Certificate Authority	certificate	--	10 Nov 2011 20:38:27	login
Class 1 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	--	2 Aug 2028 00:59:59	login
com.apple.sy...ltSharingIdentity	identity preference	11 May 2009 20:45:56	--	login
imap.googlemail.com	Internet password	15 Mar 2010 14:32:32	--	login
iphoto-smtp://smtp.me.com	application password	18 Mar 2011 13:26:41	--	login
Jabber: lpvillazon@gmail.com	application password	22 Sep 2010 21:00:46	--	login
localhost	Internet password	11 May 2009 20:13:37	--	login
Luis Villazon's Time Capsule	AirPort base statio...	21 Jan 2011 14:34:59	--	login
luisvillazon	MobileMe password	22 Sep 2010 20:59:35	--	login
luisvillazon (...haring Certificate)	certificate	--	3 Apr 2010 15:23:52	login
luisvillazon (...yption Certificate)	certificate	--	1 Oct 2010 13:27:44	login
luisvillazon@...3:20 GMT+01:00	private key	--	--	login
luisvillazon@...-01 13:27:42 GB	public key	--	--	login
luisvillazon@...-01 13:27:42 GB	private key	--	--	login
luisvillazon@mac.com AIM Signing	identity preference	1 Oct 2009 13:44:06	--	login
luisvillazon@...m SharedServices	identity preference	11 May 2009 20:45:56	--	login
lvillazon (.Mac Sharing Certificate)	certificate	--	29 Jul 2009 14:01:47	login

If you get repeatedly nagged to unlock your keychain, delete the login keychain.

enter *Time Machine* and restore the Applications folder and anything in your home folder. For the built-in apps like *Mail* and *iPhoto*, you can start them first, then enter *Time Machine* and choose which data to restore from the app interface. If you want all your data back, use *Time Machine* to restore your home folder.

"Is it possible to retrieve a lost password?"

Q My friend got me a Mac and the person she got it from isn't speaking to her anymore. I can't get the password so is there any way to override the password and put my own in instead?
Carol Buczarski

A Provided you have the original installation DVD for OS X, this is easy to do. Insert the DVD and reboot the Mac with the C key held down. After you have selected a language for the installation, you can click Password Reset from the *Utilities* menu (it's on the Installer menu for OS X 10.3). On the Reset Password dialog, there is a drop-down list that lets you select the name of the user account you want to reset. Don't pick 'System Administrator (root)' but any other admin account is fine. You can now reset or delete other user accounts from the Accounts preferences pane in *System Preferences*.

One thing though. Resetting the password from the DVD doesn't change the keychain password. This will still be set to the old password and since that no longer matches the login password, the keychain won't automatically unlock when you log in. This means that you will get prompted for the password whenever your Mac tries to authenticate a login that was previously stored in the keychain. If you open Keychain Access from Applications > Utilities, you can select the login keychain and then click Edit > Delete. A new login keychain will be created.

"My prints are coming out low-res in Aperture"

Q I have an iMac running Snow Leopard connected to a Canon MP620 printer/scanner. The printer prints in high resolution perfectly from *iPhoto* and Canon's *Easy-PhotoPrint* and *ImageBrowser*. However, I cannot print photos from *Aperture 3* in good-quality high resolution. Whichever settings I change has no effect and it comes out low resolution. The printer is set at high resolution and works with other apps, but *Aperture* seems to default to low res.
Mick Everitt

A Mick sent this question in for issue 236 as well and my advice was essentially 'it's a bug'. However, the lag caused by the magazine publishing process caused Mike to send his question in again. And how fortunate he did, because, in that interval, George Davies sent in a more helpful suggestion to change the default DPI from 72 to 300 in Aperture Presets > Image Exports. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I have an iMac and all my music is on an external HD, and all works well. However, my iMac is getting some repair work done and I want to access my music with my MacBook Pro, but cannot get this to work. The external disk is connected and mounted. I have gone into *iTunes* and chosen **Advanced** from **Preferences** and pointed to the external HD but nothing happens – any ideas? I'm lost without my sounds.
apasc Join Date: Jul 2011 Posts: 4

A Do the following:
1. Quit *iTunes*; 2. Press and hold the ⌥ key and then fire up *iTunes*; 3. A Choose iTunes Library window comes up. Click on the Choose iTunes Library... button; 4. Navigate to the *iTunes* Library file on your external hard disk and click Choose.
mcf_Costas Join Date: Jun 2007 Location: London Posts: 1,972

Q As both a Mac and Twitter newbie, I would be very grateful if anybody could please answer my query?

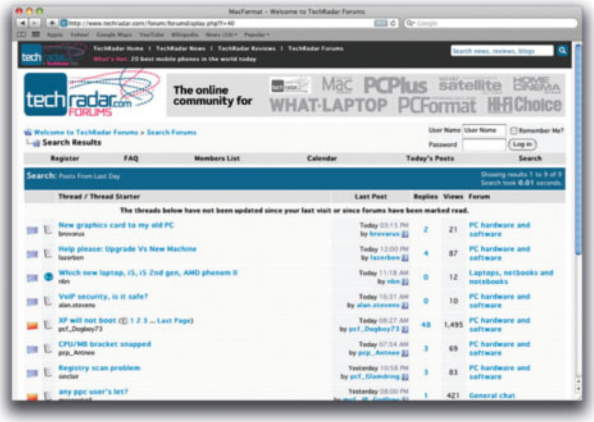
I have the Twitter app installed on my 3GS, and understand that I receive notifications to my phone when somebody sends me a personal message. Am I also supposed to receive notification when I receive a new tweet? I thought that maybe the Twitter icon would show a list of unread tweets (rather like unread mail or texts on the iPhone).

Is this a feature that I haven't enabled, or is there an app that will do this for me?

Thanks very much in advance for any advice.
clyde.cash2011 Join Date: Apr 2011 Posts: 3

A Go to the Settings App > Notifications > Switch Notifications to On then scroll down and see what the settings are for Twitter and change if necessary.

Alternatively, you can ditch the official *Twitter* app entirely and invest in something such as *Osfoora*, *Echofon*, *Tweetbot* and also install *Boxcar* (free) and that will give you push notifications.
mcf big-blue-wolf Join Date: Oct 2005 Posts: 7,485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Hi-Fi Choice
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Search Results
User Name
Remember Me?
Password
Log in
Register
FAQ
Members List
Calendar
Today's Posts
Search
Search: Posts From Last Day
Showing results 1 to 9 of 9
Search took 0.01 seconds.

The threads below have not been updated since your last visit or since forums have been marked read.

Thread / Thread Starter	Last Post	Replies	Views	Forum
New graphics card to my old PC brovarus	Today 03:15 PM by brovarus	2	21	PC hardware and software
Help please: Upgrade Vs New Machine lazerben	Today 12:00 PM by lazerben	4	87	PC hardware and software
Which new laptop, i5, i5 2nd gen, AMD phenom II nbn	Today 11:18 AM by nbn	0	12	Laptops, netbooks and notebooks
VoIP security, is it safe? alan.stevens	Today 10:31 AM by alan.stevens	0	10	PC hardware and software
XP will not boot (1 2 3 ... Last Page) pcf_Dogboy73	Today 08:27 AM by pcf_Dogboy73	48	1,495	PC hardware and software
CPU/MB bracket snapped pcp_Antnee	Today 07:54 AM by pcp_Antnee	3	69	PC hardware and software
Registry scan problem sinclair	Yesterday 10:58 PM by pcf_Glamdring	3	83	PC hardware and software
any ppc user's left?	Yesterday 08:00 PM	1	421	General chat

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"The Sandy Bridge processors' arrival on the MacBook Air range represents a massive leap in power"

MID-2011 MACBOOK AIR REFRESH P94

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Reviews

● HARDWARE ● SOFTWARE ● iPHONE APPS ● SHAREWARE ● GAMES

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

This month has certainly been an exciting one for reviews. First came Apple's controversial *Final Cut Pro X*, a completely rewritten new release of its professional video production suite. Over on page 88, Steve Paris finds there's a lot to like about it, but far too much is missing.

In the middle of the month, things slowed down a little, which was no bad thing. It gave us lots of time to test the *Mad Catz Cyborg R.A.T. 9* gaming mouse on all the latest games. Sometimes being a reviewer can be a really tough job.

And as if to prove our point, towards the end of the month, Apple released OS X 10.7: Lion, a brand-new MacBook Air and a new Mac mini. On the same day the *MacFormat* team went into overdrive, checking out the operating system's new features and seeing what the 2011 refresh brought to Apple's ultra-portable notebooks and small-format Macs. Over on page 84 you'll see we liked Lion, though it isn't without its flaws. And on page 94 and 95, we discover that Sandy Bridge processors give the new Macs a significant power boost.

» OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★ — A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.

Mac FORMAT Winner! — Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

Mac FORMAT On the disc — This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> MAC OPERATING SYSTEM

OS X 10.7 Lion

£21 Does the new release of OS X live up to expectations, or is it a step too far towards iOS?

KEY INFO

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.8 Snow Leopard **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo, Core i or Xeon processor **RAM:** 2GB **Disk space:** 4GB

PROS & CONS

- + Mission Control is amazing
- + Resume, Auto Save and Versions
- + Superb value for money
- + Easy to install
- − AirDrop disappointing
- − Questionable aesthetic decisions

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Not everything about Lion finds favour with the team, but overall, we like it. It's sure to improve as it matures over time too."

The eighth release of OS X brings around 250 new features, many of which are inspired by technologies developed for the iPhone and iPad. But pundits who suggested Lion is an exercise in making OS X look like iOS are wide of the mark. Considering its extremely low asking price of £21, there's something for everyone here – though it's not without its problems.

Lion isn't supplied on physical media. Instead, you buy it from the Mac App Store. You can install it on every Mac you own or control (no family licences here), but you must have Snow Leopard before you can upgrade, as the App Store isn't available on earlier versions of OS X. As it's only £21, the combined price of Snow Leopard and Lion is less than half the cost of older OS X releases. Lion truly is a bargain.

Getting it on your drive

Installation is straightforward. A 3.76GB Lion installer downloads to your Application folder and Dock, and automatically launches. When the upgrade has finished, the installer disappears, so if you want to keep it, quit after downloading and copy it to an external drive before launching again. You can use a saved installer to upgrade other Macs, but they still need to be running Snow Leopard.

Let's start with *Finder*, which has had a makeover and learned a few new tricks. The gumdrops in the top-left corner are smaller and less intense. The sidebar text is larger and its icons are now monochrome; a surprising decision considering *iTunes'* dropping of coloured icons was poorly received last autumn. The sidebar has also been reordered, with your computer's storage drives at the bottom instead of the top. This is a change that not everyone will welcome. The smart search folders based on date and kind are gone, but you can recreate them.

The sidebar has gained a couple of new functions, though neither are particularly outstanding. All My Files is supposed to gather all the files you regularly open into one window, using Cover Flow-like rows. Unfortunately, it only covers your Home folder, so if you keep your files on a secondary drive (if your boot drive is an SSD and space is at a premium, for instance), it's almost useless.

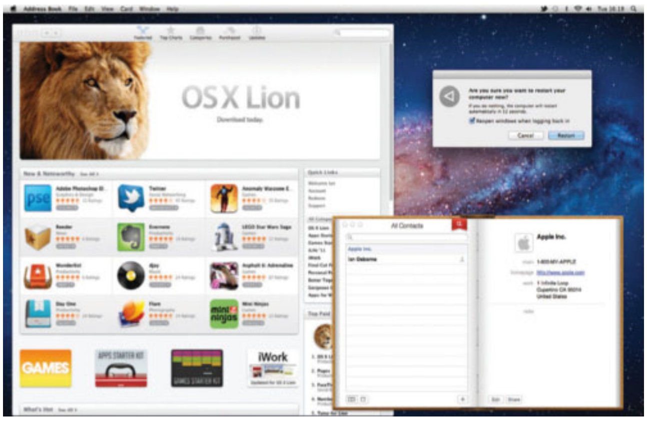
When you open sidebar feature AirDrop, nearby Macs are shown. You can transfer files by dragging them onto the window, creating a peer-to-peer wireless connection; you don't have to be on the same network. Unfortunately, it only works on Macs running Lion, so it's of limited utility in a mixed-OS environment. Even with Lion, some Macs are incapable of using AirDrop. See http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4783 to check if your machine is supported. Worst of all, you only see nearby Macs in your AirDrop window if they also have an AirDrop window open. In practice, this means you probably have to ask the recipient to open one before you can send a file. You might as well use a flash drive. Much more useful is expanding a window by dragging any edge or corner, not just the bottom-right. This great feature makes organising a busy desktop much easier. We miss the pill in the top-right corner that toggled between full and minimal windows, though, and we didn't get the much-requested tabbed *Finder* windows.

Applications with a full-screen option are nothing new, but Lion makes the feature native to OS X, giving developers a straightforward way to incorporate it into their programs. Compatible apps can be viewed in full-screen at the touch of a

> *"When you open sidebar feature AirDrop, nearby Macs are shown. You can transfer files by dragging them onto the window"*

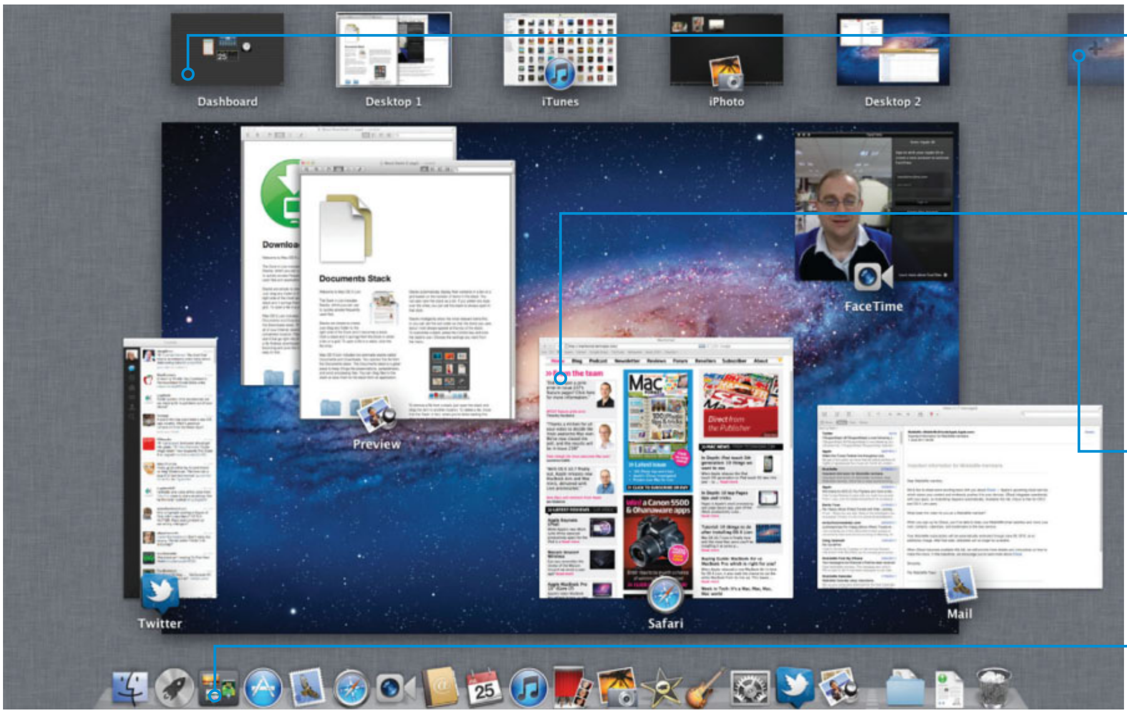
MacBook Air

Launchpad is an easy way to open apps, but few seem excited by this iOS-inspired feature.



Resume restarts apps and even your system in the same state they were when you shut down.

MISSION CONTROL / Your Mac at your fingertips



Spaces
Spaces desktops, apps running in full-screen and your *Dashboard* are shown at the top.

Windows & apps
Windows are grouped according to app. Click one to bring it to the front.

Add a desktop
Hovering the pointer here reveals a plus sign. Click it to add a desktop.

Mission Control
Launch it from the Dock here, or with a gesture (three-fingered swipe).

button, cutting out borders and distractions. Coupled with the ability to flick beween windows using gestures or key commands this is especially useful on small-screen notebooks. Our only complaint about this feature is that it's single-screen only. If you have a second monitor, it's blanked with Lion's linen texture when using full-screen on your primary display. We hope a future update makes this optional.

Hand to eye

Gestures are a far more integral part of the new OS, so much so that those with desktop Macs should consider getting a Magic Trackpad. A series of new taps, pinches and swipes launch new features, flick between Spaces desktops and full-screen apps, and generally make your life easier. The new gestures take a little getting used to at first, but with practice, going back to a mouse feels like stepping out of a sports car and into a family saloon.

Something else that takes a while to get used to is Lion's controversial new scrolling behaviour. Previously, scrolling controlled the window's scroll bar pellet, so scrolling up moved the pellet upwards, and the window's contents downwards. This has been reversed in Lion; scrolling directly interacts with the window's contents, so scrolling up moves the page up, like in iOS. Although much derided, it's actually more logical. Ask someone who's never used a computer to scroll a window, and chances are they'll instinctively go for Lion's method.

> *"Gestures are a far more integral part of the new OS, so much so that those with desktop Macs should consider getting a Trackpad"*

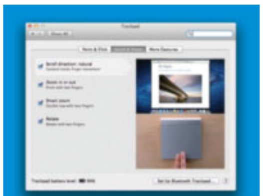
One of Lion's greatest assets is Mission Control. A brilliantly conceived fusion of *Dashboard*, Spaces and Exposé, this handy new feature gives you a bird's-eye view of everything that's running on your Mac. At the top of the screen, your *Dashboard*, full-screen applications and Spaces desktops are shown. *Dashboard* is now treated as a desktop rather than an overlay and no longer has its own Dock icon, but it can still be opened using a function key. The main desktop area groups open windows according to their apps; it's really easy to click on the one you want and bring it to the front. If your desktop's cluttered, it's easy to open Mission control, add a new Spaces desktop and move some windows onto it too.

Although very useful, Mission Control is far from attractive, and definitely not up to Apple's usual aesthetic standards. Adding a new Spaces desktop isn't very instinctive either; you drag your pointer into the top-right corner until a plus sign appears. But on a practical level it's a breath of fresh air. Uniting Exposé and Spaces makes both features more productive than when they were alone.

A feature that's making far fewer waves among long-time Mac users is

>> QUICK TIP
Lion doesn't provide a Java runtime by default. Go to **http://bit.ly/raa8yV** to download and install it.

Lion is purchased and installed through the Mac App Store, introduced with Snow Leopard.

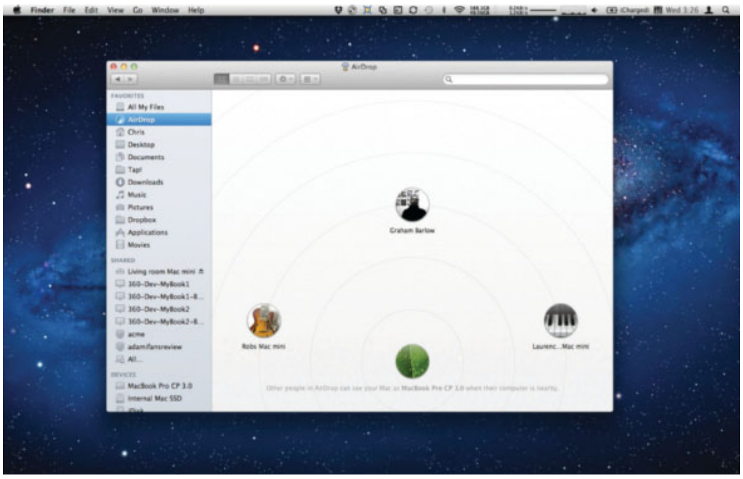


QUICK TIP

To change the reversed scrolling behaviour, open *System Preferences*. If you're using a trackpad, in the **Trackpad** pane, select **Scroll & Zoom** and uncheck **Scroll direction: natural**. If you use a Magic Mouse, in the **Mouse** pane, select **Point & Click** and again uncheck **Scroll direction: natural**. With a third-party mouse, open the **Mouse** pane and uncheck the option situated at the top of the screen.

Launchpad. Clearly inspired by iOS's home screen, this new application launcher offers a quick and easy way to get at your programs. Up to 40 app icons per page can be displayed, and, as with iOS's home screen, you can swipe between pages. Your applications can be reordered and moved from page to page, and also grouped into folders by dragging one icon onto another.

The problem is that Launchpad isn't very configurable. Applications bought from the App Store or kept in your Applications folder are automatically added, and programs kept elsewhere can be added by dragging them onto the Dock icon. But you can't remove applications from Launchpad without uninstalling them from your Mac. Launchpad could grow useful as you arrange your applications so the most-used ones are on the first page, and if you never use it, it's not in the way. But we can't help thinking that in tailoring it to switchers, Apple has made Launchpad too inflexible for long-time Mac owners.



We had high hopes for AirDrop, but Lion's new file transfer feature proved disappointing.

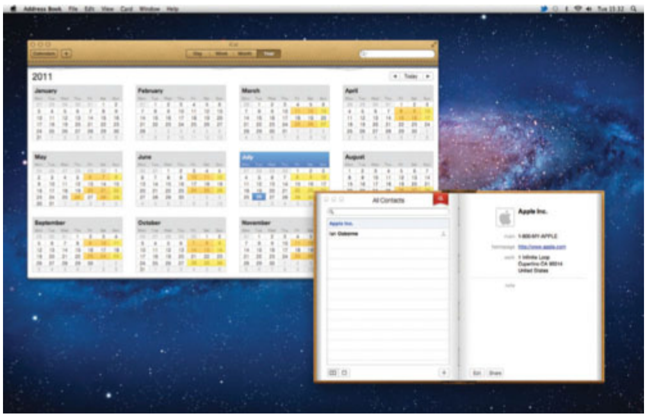
The new version of Apple's email client, *Mail 5*, is a mixed bag. A new widescreen layout presents your received emails; a short preview of their contents appears in a column to the left of a full-height window, showing your currently selected message. Mailboxes, reminders and other folders aren't shown by default, but can be opened in another column at the push of a button. A favourites bar gives access to commonly used folders, and you can customise it by adding new ones.

> *"We can't help thinking that in tailoring it to switchers, Apple has made Launchpad too inflexible for long-time Mac owners"*

You can mark a message for later reference using one of seven coloured flags, not just red. The search field has been overhauled too. When searching for a person, phrase or label, *Mail* displays your search as a clickable token in the search field. Click on it to narrow your search according to criteria such as From, To or Entire Message. Tokens can be combined, and you can add more terms to narrow the search still further. For example, a few months back Fred Smith sent you an email about motorbikes. First you type 'Fred Smith', and click the token to narrow it to messages from that person. Add 'motorbikes' and only messages containing this word are shown. Chances are only a few emails are offered, and one of them is the one you're looking for. There's also a new Conversation feature, which threads related emails in chronological order, making exchanges easy to follow.

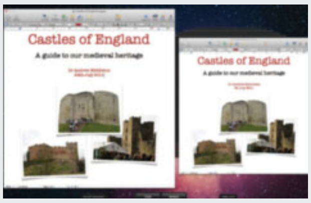
The application's new monochrome buttons lack clarity. How, for example, are you supposed to know that the thumbs-down icon means junk mail, and the button that looks like a washboard opens a new note? When you first start using the revamped app, you might have to hover your mouse pointer over the buttons just to see what they do. Its animations seem over-fussy and distracting too. The new-look *Mail* is a welcome revision, but not without its own teething troubles.

Lion's *iCal* and *Address Book* are functionally very similar to their predecessors, but they've been made to look like their paper counterparts. *iCal*'s ugly stitched leather finish is



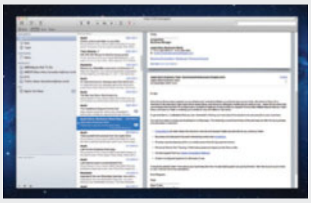
The new-look iCal and Address Book apps get unnecessary makeovers.

TOP 3 FEATURES / What Lion has to offer


Castles of England
A guide to our medieval heritage
Castles of England
A guide to our medieval heritage

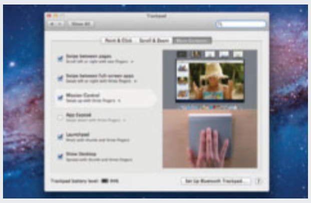
Versions

Browse your document's history, revert to an older version to undo changes or copy and paste things you accidentally deleted back into your current document.



Apple Mail

The latest version of OS X's email client adds a range of new features. Searching has been enhanced, and it automatically threads related emails.



New Gestures

New multi-touch gestures have been added for Lion. Gestures are now so integrated into the OS that desktop users might want to get a Magic Trackpad.

OPINION / THOUGHTS FROM THE TEAM

Graham Barlow
Editor-in-Chief

I'm loving OS X Lion. Mission Control and Launchpad are essentials for me now, but as expected there's a few things I'm not overly keen on. I hardly ever use full-screen apps and I'm not sure I like the new overall look. To me there's definitely nothing natural about 'natural' scrolling though, so the first thing I did when I booted was turn it off!

Rob Mead-Green
Deputy Editor

I'm still in two minds about Lion: one part of me really likes new features such as full-screen apps and Mission Control, but I'm less enamoured of unnecessary changes Apple's made to the *Finder* sidebar. The best reason to upgrade is definitely Auto Save and Versions. Both will save my sanity when I'm writing and editing documents or toying with family snaps.

Laurence Cable
Contributor

Do I like it? Yes, but not wholeheartedly. My biggest complaint is the greyness – what's wrong with a bit of colour? It's made the whole thing less intuitive to use, and that's very definitely a bad thing. On the flipside, there are so many little improvements – not least the way it offered to add one of my web-based mail accounts to *Mail* when I logged in. Nice.

Tim Hardwick
Production Editor

Lion has its pros and cons. For me, Mission Control is surely the ace in Apple's pack, bringing together Spaces, Exposé and full-screen apps in such a seamless way as to enrich them all. But the same can't be said for Launchpad, which feels unnaturally tacked on and limited in its current form. Luckily there are 248 other little improvements to distract my attention.

Alex Thomas
Art Editor

One of the things Apple has done with Lion is strip out unwanted colours so that your content stands out – but I think it's gone too far; from *Finder* sidebar icons to system-wide scrollbars, Lion is a sea of boring grey. From a usability standpoint that makes window elements harder to tell apart from each other. And it makes OS X Lion a less pleasant place to be.

distracting and pointless. *Address Book* is worse, with the three-column view used in Snow Leopard giving way to a two-page physical book showing groups and names, and over the page, names and cards. In 2011, we don't need real-world metaphors to remind us what organisation apps are for, especially if the graphical over-design makes them less usable.

"Apple's elegant but limited Front Row media centre application has been removed, even though it's capable of running on the OS"

Resume lets applications and even the entire system restart in exactly the same state they were in when you closed them down. Relaunch *Safari*, for example, and all tabs, windows and websites reopen on restart (as long as you weren't in Private Browsing mode). It works system-wide too. When you shut down your Mac, you have the option (on by default) of reopening running apps and windows when you log in again. If you've ever put off restarting your machine after an application or system update, you can imagine how useful this feature will prove.

Auto Save and Versions could make losing work to a crash or accidental edit a thing of the past. Apps supporting Auto Save are saved automatically during pauses in your work, or after five minutes if you don't take a break. Versions creates a history of your document, which you can then review using a *Time Machine*-like interface. Revert to an older version to abandon changes, or copy and paste content back into the current version if you deleted something you should have kept.

MacBook Air

Lion's full-screen feature means compatible apps fill your display at the touch of a button.

Apple's elegant but limited *Front Row* media centre application has been removed, even though it's quite capable of running on the new operating system. We've also lost Rosetta, Apple's dynamic translator used to run PowerPC applications on Intel Macs. If you're still running PowerPC software, it must be upgraded or abandoned before you switch to Lion.

Some people who use a NAS drive for *Time Machine* backups find it no longer works in Lion. If you're in this position, check the support site for your NAS drive and wait for an update. A few applications struggle with the new operating system too. There's a useful wiki listing compatible and incompatible apps at www.roaringapps.com.

Like all new operating systems, Lion will shine after two or three updates. But unless you run must-have PowerPC applications, there's no reason not to upgrade now. Despite one or two sub-par features and odd design decisions, OS X 10.7 is sleek, powerful and great value for money. ●

QUICK TIP

In *Preview*, you can now photograph your written signature using your webcam, and use it to sign digital documents such as PDFs. In *Preview's* **Preferences**, select **Signatures** to capture and save a digital sig.

>> VIDEO-EDITING SOFTWARE

Final Cut Pro X

£180 Video editors waited years for a revamped Final Cut Pro, so what did Apple deliver for £180?

KEY INFO

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk/finalcutpro

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X v10.6.7 or later **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo or better **RAM:** 2GB **Video:** OpenCL-capable card or Intel HD Graphics 3000 or later, 256MB of VRAM, 1280x768 resolution or higher **Disk space:** 2.4GB

PROS & CONS

⊕ Incredibly affordable
⊕ Finally edit AVCHD media
⊕ Install on multiple Macs
⊕ Powerful new features
⊖ Only on the Mac App Store
⊖ Too many missing tools for pros

VERDICT

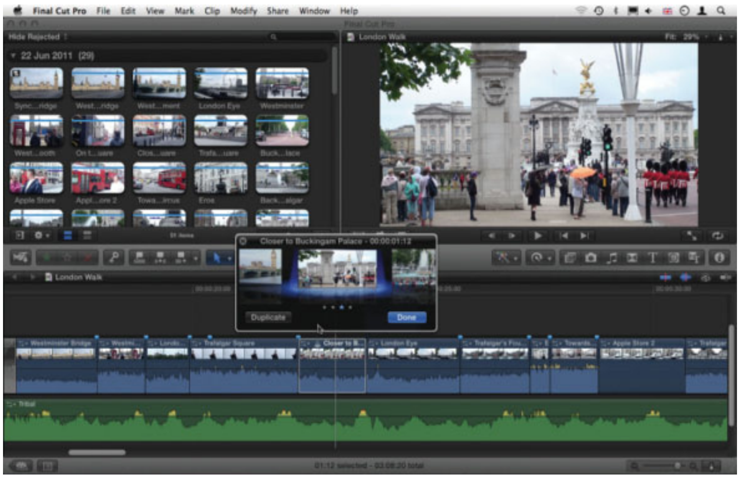
★★½☆☆

"Upgrading from iMovie? Then this is a bargain. But current FCP users should wait before adopting."

That *Final Cut Pro* (*FCP*) had lately been showing its age is no secret. Most of the innovation was actually taking place in the consumer field with *iMovie*, and there were many features that professional editors were eyeing with envy. These were features such as: skimming through thumbnails to get a preview of clips to greatly speed up the selection process; being able to label clips with various keywords to make it easy to find the right one in seconds; giving each project its own scratch disk as opposed to having one set for the application; a more up-to-date font and text architecture instead of the antiquated one that hadn't changed since *FCP*'s introduction; and being able to see when an audio clip is peaking just by glancing at the waveform in the timeline, rather than having to listen to it proper.

All these were added to *FCP X* (pronounced 'ten'), along with many others including a 64-bit architecture (meaning you can feed it as much RAM as you can cram into your Mac, rather than be limited to only 4GB), background rendering and the ability to work with any files from SD to 4K – even within the same project.

All this sounds good, so why all the fuss online and even on comedy shows? It's because Apple decided to remove a lot of what many professional editors depended on and never thought about until it was taken away from them.


Final Cut Pro File Edit View Mark Clip Modify Share Window Help
Hide Rejected
22 Jun 2011 (29)
London Walk
Closer to Buckingham Palace - 00:00:01:12
Duplicate
Done

'Auditions' lets you create different versions of a section and switch between them.

Take the main column in the browser window, which used to remain anchored on the left-hand side – no matter how far down the right you'd scroll to see more of the clip's metadata, you'd never lose track of its name. Well, that's gone. And what about adding keyframes to animate any parameter, which was automatic each time you modified its value after having set the first one?

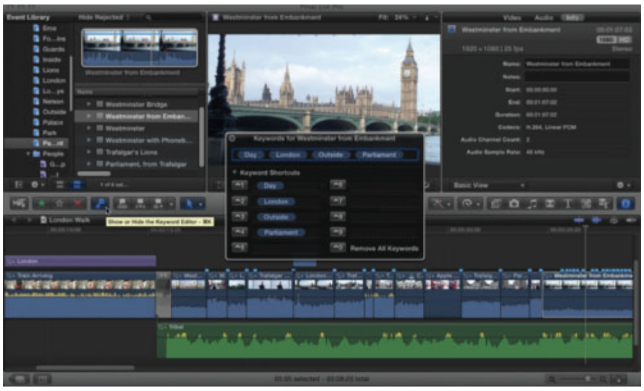
> *"Apple decided to remove a lot of what many pro editors depended on and never thought about until it was taken away from them"*

Missing in action. Then there are the clips in the browser that kept the last In and Out points you'd set; the free creation of chapter markers along your timeline; the ability to drag any clip anywhere on the timeline, creating gaps if you needed them (or not); and the projects that could be of virtually any dimension. None of these – nor many others – are possible with *FCP X*. Larger omissions include: a complete lack of multi-camera support; an inability to natively export to OMF, AAF or EDL files to move your project to other programs for further manipulation; no option to send a clip to *Motion* from the timeline to add effects to it; no proper support for connecting to a broadcast monitor; and no possibility of importing projects created with an earlier version of *FCP*.

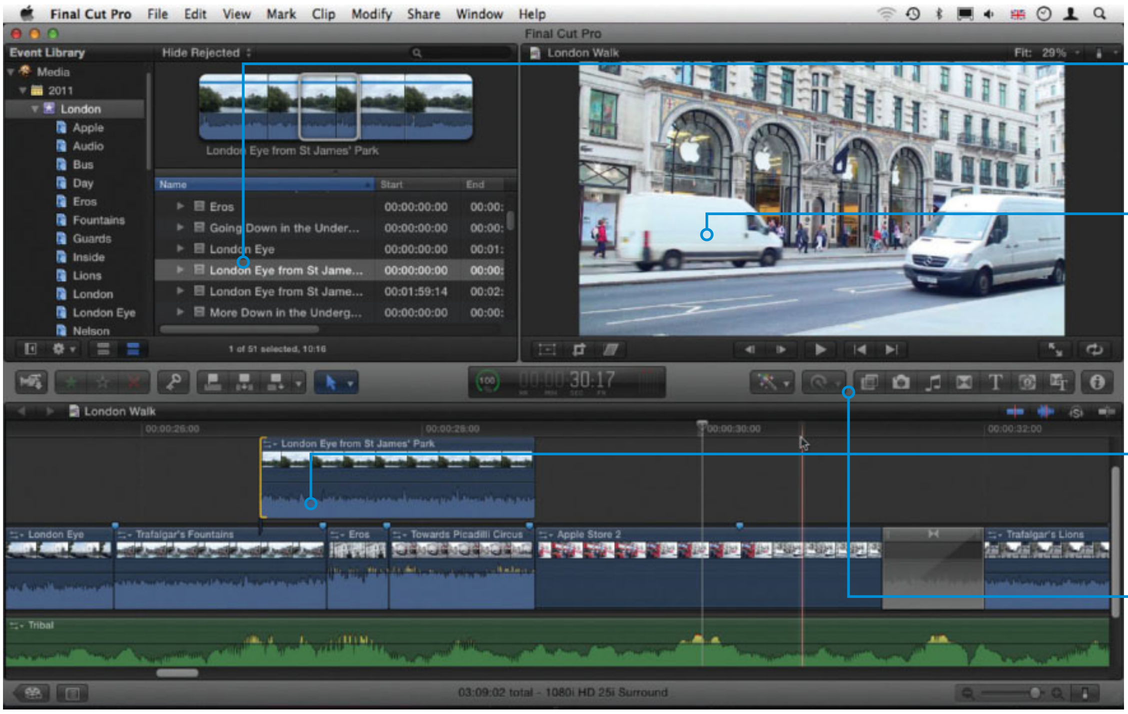
This is all because *FCP X* isn't an upgrade but version 1.0 of a completely new program. What's confusing is that Apple kept the same name and discontinued the *Final Cut Studio* suite when *FCP X* was released, forcing people to move to the new application. And if they couldn't, they had to consider their options – hence the anger and confusion. Curiously enough, Apple kept the older version alive when transitioning users from Mac OS 9 to OS X and even *iMovie 6* to *7*, so why they haven't done so this time is a bit of a mystery.

But if so much is missing, what does this new software offer aside from the above? For one thing, you can edit more files in their native format, such as AVCHD, avoiding the lengthy transcoding process and saving you a fair amount of disk space. You can finally work with AAC and MP3 audio files without having to render them first, and clips shot with any iOS device now display as

Powerful keywording tools are at your disposal to catalogue your clips to your heart's content.



QUICK LOOK / Where can you find everything you need to edit a movie?



The browser View clips in a browser as thumbnails (as in *iMovie*) or as a list with a series of metadata.

The previewer Combines the features of the Canvas and Viewer areas of older versions.

The main storyline Add clips to the storyline, and they're appended to the clip beneath.

The toolbar Icons grant you access to enhancements, retiming tools, effects and so on.

expected. *FCP X* can also import *iMovie* projects, creating a clear and easy migration path for up-and-coming editors.

The new magnetic timeline keeps your clips together, avoiding unintentional gaps and making sure you never overwrite clips by mistake, or move the audio and video out of sync when moving things around (unless of course that's your intention). There's no such thing as layers anymore: clips can be added above existing ones as you wish, but all are linked to the main Storyline, which is essentially the first layer. This is an entirely new editing concept that will take some getting used to. The whole process feels like you're being looked after, which is great for first-time editors, but veterans may well feel constrained because they can't work the way they're used to. Many keyboard shortcuts are the same, but quite a few are different. Thankfully, there's a powerful shortcut customisation option, but this can't disguise the fact that you're having to learn an entirely new program.

There are a lot of things to like in this release, such as the ability to mouse over an effect and see how it changes a selected clip prior to applying it (holding down the ⌥ key as you do so intensifies the effect), and the new colour correction tools are impressive, but too much is missing for professionals. Since it's so cheap though, you should consider purchasing it and running it alongside *FCP 7* (which will still work with Lion), then learn how to use it as you keep earning money with the older version. Apple's promised to update its new program fast and you don't want to get left behind when younger editors can do things better and faster thanks to the changes in *FCP X*.

Steve Paris

> *"The new magnetic timeline keeps your clips together, avoiding unintentional gaps and making sure you never overwrite clips"*

TOP 3 FEATURES / Final Cut Pro X's toolkit

Immediate editing

Select clips to import from a tapeless camera and they're immediately available for you to add to a project: *FCP X* reads the media from the camera. Once fully imported, *FCP* invisibly relinks the files to those on your hard drive.

Live video scopes

In previous versions of *FCP*, video scopes used for colour correction only updated once playback was stopped. Now, these same tools update in real time as the project plays. You can even colour correct on the fly.

Automatic syncing

Pros always record audio on a separate device for improved quality, but syncing it to the video is always a chore - until now. In *FCP X*, select the two, choose Synchronise Clips from the Clip menu and you're done.

>> EBAY AUCTION MANAGER

Equinux iSale 5.8

£18 Create attractive auction listings easily

KEY INFO

Developer: equinux USA, Inc
www.equinux.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5 or later
Processor: PowerPC or Intel Mac, internet connection

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Create eye-catching auctions
- ⊕ Easy and fun
- ⊕ Use photos for free
- ⊖ Limited template customisation

VERDICT

★★★★☆

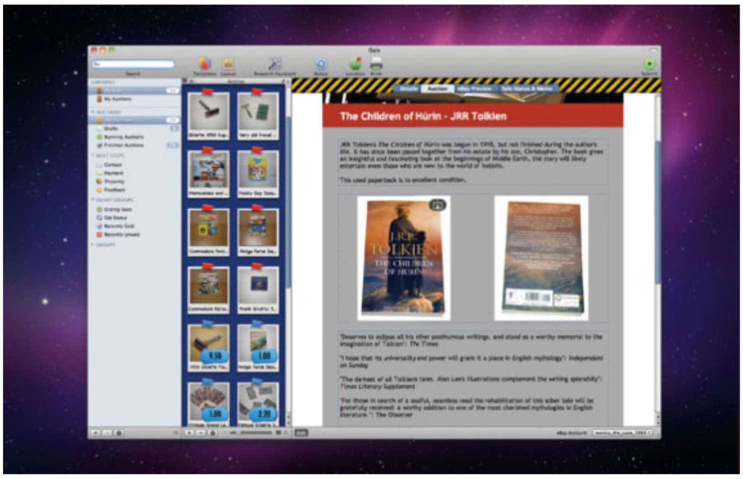
"Excellent for setting up auctions, but after-sales is best handled on the site."

Online auction tool *iSale* takes much of the tedium out of preparing and uploading your eBay auctions. With over 200 templates to choose from, building eye-catching listings is a simple task. Photos can be dragged and dropped into preset picture boxes, information can be typed or copied into text fields and the overall layout can be tweaked to suit your needs. Don't expect full-on DTP facilities though. The template's backgrounds can't be customised, so you're stuck with the original images and colours. *iSale*'s great at dealing with photos, though. It's easy to add multiple pictures for free by hosting them online, without any awkward HTML editing. You can even embed videos.

This new version, which is free for *iSale 5* users, expands the app's research tools. The Research Assistant searches key websites for similar items, and is joined by eBay's new product catalogue, allowing you to find and add product information quickly and easily. Stability and performance have been improved too.

As before, Draft, Running and Finished Auctions are grouped, and you can set up smart folders to sort them. You can relist items no one bought, or edit and reuse old auctions when selling a similar item. It also monitors running auctions and offers after-sale features, but they're no easier to use than the eBay site. *iSale*'s strengths lie in the beginning of the process – preparing auctions, reusing old listings and uploading them at a time of your choosing. For that, it's worth the money.

Ian Osborne



iSale 5.8 has a very instinctive, Mac-like interface that makes it both easy and fun to use.

>> INTERACTIVE STORYBOOK

Ladybird: The Land of Me

£30 (£7 a chapter) A magical land of learning

KEY INFO

Developer: Ladybird
www.thelandofme.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later
Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo 1.83GHz
RAM: 2GB **Hard disk:** 1.3GB space

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ A beautiful, imaginative world
- ⊕ Encourages learning through play
- ⊕ Charming characters and story
- ⊖ Downloading is slow

VERDICT

★★★★½

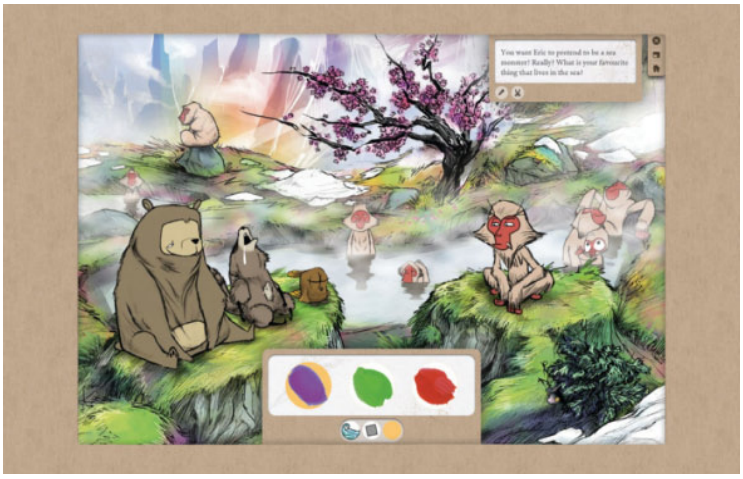
"A truly interactive kid's app that they'll want to come back to again."

With kids' apps on the iPad stealing the limelight it's good to see a company investing serious time and effort into making one for the Mac that really shines. *The Land of Me* follows the adventures of three friends: Eric the raccoon, Buddy Boo the bear and Willow the owl. There are six chapters, with each one covering a different activity, such as making things or rhythm and dance. Each chapter has essentially the same setup – your child makes a series of simple choices to determine how the story goes; so they could choose the speed and type of a song, or the colour and shape of an object. The results get pretty imaginative and are wonderfully animated to boot.

The aim is to learn through play, although of course, it doesn't matter what the grown-ups think. The proof, as they say, is in the pudding, so we enlisted the help of my four-year-old son to test the app. He was absolutely hooked from the beginning, and loved choosing the different options and joining in with actions when the characters danced. If you're worried that kids shouldn't be using computers at such a young age, *LoM* positively encourages time away from the Mac too, with lots of projects you can print out and create – like paper crowns or finger puppets.

You can order the app on a DVD or get it as a digital download. If you go for the latter route be warned that you also need to download chapters and individual activities separately.

Graham Barlow


You want Eric to pretend to be a sea monster! Really! What is your favourite thing that lives in the sea?

Here we're choosing a colour with Eric, a monkey who likes to hang out at the hot baths.

>> PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE

MindJet MindManager 9

£190 Gather your thoughts, organise your ideas, and even create presentations

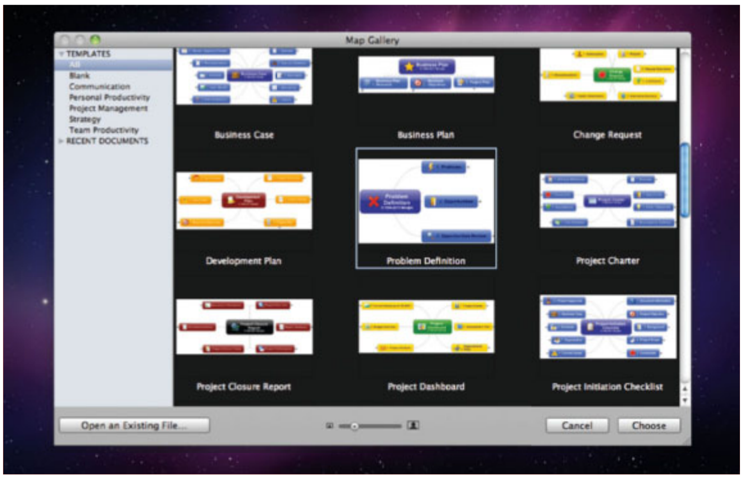
No matter what kind of project or area of life, mind mapping is a great way to get your thoughts organised. It can help with everything from a home move to a complex work project. The basic idea of mind mapping is quite simple: create a central keyword or phrase, and then create linked concepts, ideas and thoughts (called nodes) as they occur around this word.

Once you've blurted out all that you can think of, you can start to organise these random thoughts by linking them together, creating some kind of hierarchy to them. This organisational phase is one of the reasons that mind mapping is really effective on a computer, as you can simply drag around ideas on screen, annotating them as you need to.

MindManager is the preeminent software for mind mapping on both Windows and Mac, and its latest incarnation adds some much-needed minor updates as well as a couple of significant new features. The first big feature is one that makes initially brainstorming ideas much more simple: a Quick Entry brainstorm mode. This lets you type up a list of thoughts, then drag them to your mind map, creating a new topic node and sub-topics linked off it. This is significantly quicker than the old method of creating each thought, by hand, on the main map itself.

"MindManager is the preeminent software for mind mapping on the Mac, and its latest incarnation adds significant features"

The second big new feature is the ability to create slide presentations directly from within *MindManager*. This is more than just the ability to export to *PowerPoint* or *Keynote*: you can drag and drop nodes from your map into a new Slide view, adjust the order they appear in, and control how you want branches to appear, effectively giving you the ability to create an animated version of your mind map for presenting your idea. The controls available on slideshows aren't up to the same quality as something like *PowerPoint*, but you can export and add extra frills as required if you wish.



The new gallery shows you all the templates available to you in one simple view.

Although the interface hasn't been entirely revamped, there are some nice touches that make the product easier to use. There's a new map gallery that lets you choose from available templates, a formatting toolbar that lets you more easily change the format of text, shapes and any icons you use, and an inspector palette which is more clearly arranged than in the previous version. Importantly, if you want to output a document from your map, notes that are attached to nodes can be formatted in place, enabling you to add bullet points, bold and italic, and even tables in notes. This makes it much easier to use *MindManager* as a method of writing complete documents, as well as simply a place to brainstorm ideas.

Coupled to this is a wider range of export options, including *Word*, *PowerPoint*, *Keynote*, *Pages*, and interactive, clickable PDFs. And MindJet has removed one of the most annoying limitations of previous versions of *MindManager*, by allowing you to import documents from *iWork* and *Office* without having to have a live internet connection.

The only minor quibble we have is the price. At £190 (or around £95 per year as a subscription) it's a big leap up from more simple mind mapping products like *SimpleMind* (£15), one that is hard to justify for anyone but the most devoted mind mapper. If you're a long-term *MindManager* power user the upgrade will be worth the money, but if you're new to mind mapping we'd suggest you look at cheaper options unless you're sure you need the power features.

Ian Betteridge

KEY INFO

Developer: MindJet
www.mindjet.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6, **Processor:** Intel (733MHz or more) **RAM:** 512MB (1GB recommended) **Disk space:** 100MB **Display:** 1024x768 screen resolution

PROS & CONS

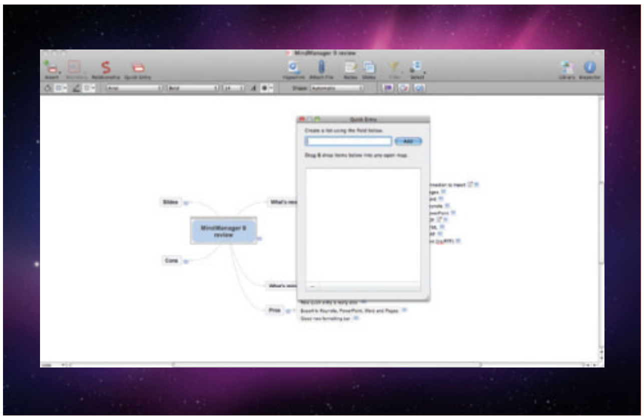
- + Easy-to-use Slide view
- + Much-improved formatting bar
- + Quick Entry window
- + Improved export options
- + Useful template gallery
- – Expensive for casual users

VERDICT

★★★★½

"This is a premium mind mapping package - but it's priced to match."

Quick Entry mode makes brainstorming an idea much faster than was previously possible.



>> WINDOW MANAGER

BetterSnapTool 1.2.3

£1.19 Organising windows needn't be a chore

KEY INFO

Developer: Andreas Hegenberg

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Mouse or keyboard shortcuts
- ⊕ Appearance customisation
- ⊕ App exclusion option
- ⊖ Window restore is like an undo

VERDICT

★★★★★

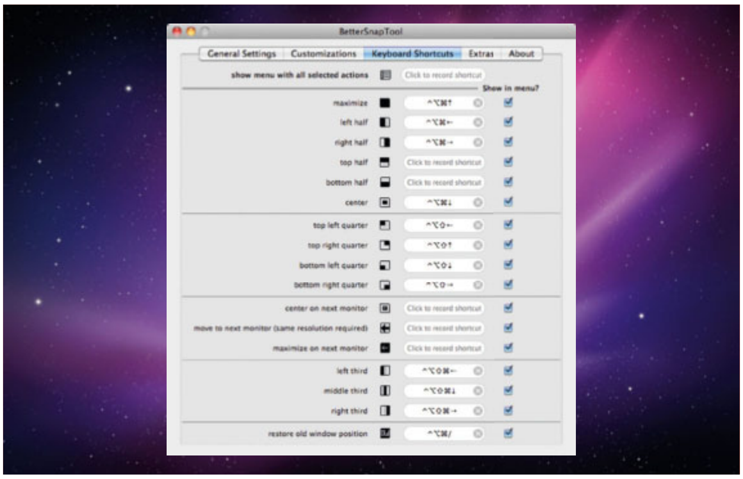
"A highly useful and flexible window manager, for a bargain price."

Window management, in terms of on-screen placement, is one of the Mac's weakest areas, and while OS X Lion's full-screen mode will be fine for focussing on a single task, Windows 7 does a lot better when it comes to multiple applications. *BetterSnapTool* is yet another app that brings Windows Snap-like features to the Mac, but it warrants a look simply due to living up to its name – in other words, this really is a better snap tool.

Preferences enable mouse and keyboard settings to be activated or deactivated. On the second of those, you can define shortcuts for maximising a window or sending it to a half, quarter or third of the screen. You can also fire a window to another screen on a multiple-monitor setup. Further customisation options exist for amending the appearance of the preview overlay when using the mouse to snap windows, delay settings and click actions on window buttons and the window's title bar. For example, you can right-click the zoom button to maximise a window and double-click the title bar to show the actions menu. Options also exist to move or resize windows below the cursor when a modifier's held.

The lack of gesture support is a pity and the app's restore is more like an undo. But with its healthy spree of options and unusually low price, *BetterSnapTool*'s now our favourite app of this type on the Mac.

Craig Grannell



		Show in menu?
show menu with all selected actions	Click to record shortcut	
maximize	^⌥⌘↑	☑
left half	^⌥⌘←	☑
right half	^⌥⌘→	☑
top half	Click to record shortcut	☑
bottom half	Click to record shortcut	☑
center	^⌥⌘↓	☑
top left quarter	^⌥⇧←	☑
top right quarter	^⌥⇧↑	☑
bottom left quarter	^⌥⇧↓	☑
bottom right quarter	^⌥⇧→	☑
center on next monitor	Click to record shortcut	☑
move to next monitor (same resolution required)	Click to record shortcut	☑
maximize on next monitor	Click to record shortcut	☑
left third	^⌥⇧⌘←	☑
middle third	^⌥⇧⌘↓	☑
right third	^⌥⇧⌘→	☑
restore old window position	^⌥⌘/	☑

BetterSnapTool combines options from rival window management apps to bring you more.

>> SLIDESHOW TOOL

ePic 1.1

£5.99 Fling your photos around

Developer site: www.epicreal.com/mac/epicapp.htm

The problem with *ePic* is that its one gimmick isn't enough to justify the cost, and that's a pity, because it's fun to play with: on launch, the app defaults to full-screen and enables you to fling around photos from *iPhoto* or Flickr. There's also a rather more standard slideshow option. Performance is good, but photo display didn't seem all that random; and oddly the app doesn't enable you to select an *iPhoto* album – only events, flagged photos or those with certain ratings. And when *iPhoto* itself – with plenty of slideshow options – only costs a few quid more, Apple's app is a better purchase by far.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Fun, but throwaway and overpriced for what it offers, compared to iPhoto."

>> QUIT UTILITY

QuitsApps MBI 1.0.3

£FREE Quit your apps – fast

Developer site: www.limit-point.com

QuitsAppsMBI is in many ways a curious app, because it balances uneasily on that line between 'entirely redundant' and 'surprisingly useful'. On one hand, you might argue there's no point in a utility to rapidly quit all your apps. But it's faster than you could ever be using ⌘+Q and the OS X app switcher during a clean shutdown. Also, *QuitsAppsMBI* usefully displays all running apps. This means you can quit faceless and hidden apps without a trip to *Activity Monitor*. So while *QuitsAppsMBI* is far from essential, it's a handy freebie to have hanging around.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Probably a tad superfluous in itself, but a nonetheless occasionally handy tool."

>> DUMMY TEXT GENERATOR

LittleIpsum 2.0.1

£FREE Rapid-fire garbage generation

Developer site: http://littleipsum.com

If you're not involved in design, your encounters with 'Lorem Ipsum' text will be when an unfortunate editor forgets to replace holding copy with the real thing; but for designers, it's useful to have fast access to such text to test layouts before finished copy is available. *LittleIpsum* sits in the menu bar and has an intuitive interface that enables you to send up to five words or sentences, or four paragraphs, to the clipboard. Apart from *Growl* and login item support, that's it; while options for more specific text amounts might have been nice, we admire the app's elegance.

Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A handy, simple, elegant and lightweight application exclusively for designers."

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>> APPLE NOTEBOOK

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

Apple MacBook Air dual-core 1.8GHz Intel Core i7, Mid-2011

£1,449 A great leap forward for the Air, but can it fill the gap left by the discontinued MacBook?

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Dual-core 1.8GHz Intel Core i7 **RAM:** 4MB **Hard disk**: 256GB SSD **Ports:** 2xUSB 2.0, 1xThunderbolt **Optical drive:** No **Display:** 13.3-inch, 1440x900 resolution **Graphics:** Intel HD Graphics 3000 **Dimensions:** 0.3-1.7x32.5x22.7cm **Weight:** 1.35kg

PROS & CONS

+ Powerful new processors
+ Intel HD Graphics 3000
+ Thunderbolt port
+ Backlit keyboard returns
+ Solid-state storage
− Not ideal at entry level

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A significant step forward for the MacBook Air, which is powerful enough to use as your main Mac."

New Sandy Bridge processors from Intel have brought big performance increases across the Mac range. Their arrival on the MacBook Air represents a giant leap in power for Apple's ultra-portable, which also benefits from a new Thunderbolt port and the return of the backlit keyboard.

The 2011 MacBook Airs retain the form factor introduced in last year's refresh, with two 11-inch and two 13-inch models on offer. The 11-inch MacBook Airs use 1.6GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processors, with the 13-inch versions using 1.7GHz Core i5 chips. The more expensive model in each size can be upgraded to a 1.8GHz Intel Core i7 using the Online Store customisation options, and that's what we're looking at here – a high-end 13-inch model that's been upgraded to a Core i7.

The Core i7 (and indeed all the CPUs used in the new MacBook Air range) is dual core, though Hyper Threading means two threads can run on each of its two cores, giving it four virtual cores in all. The chips also offer Turbo Boost, which can temporarily increase the clock speed to up to 2.9GHz when more power is needed. Sandy Bridge's Intel HD Graphics 3000 processor is a fair replacement for the integrated NVIDIA GeForce 320M in the previous line of Airs, though it was marginally out-performed in our *Doom 3* test.

The new MacBook Airs come preinstalled with OS X 10.7: Lion – a boon for trackpad users.

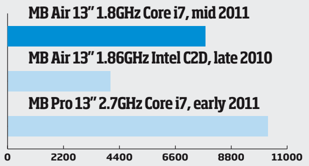
> *"The Core i7 is dual core, though Hyper Threading means two threads can run on each of its two cores, giving it four in all"*

The 2010 model's Mini DisplayPort has been replaced by a Thunderbolt port. As regular readers know, Thunderbolt combines video and I/O capabilities. As well as giving incredible data transfer speeds, it also acts as a video-out port. You can plug a Mini DisplayPort cable directly into it, and also VGA, HDMI and DVI screens, using adapters. You can also use adapters for FireWire 800 and Gigabit Ethernet, the first time either has been possible using a MacBook Air. The backlit keyboard was removed for the 2010 refresh, but returns with this year's range.

With the white MacBook now discontinued, the cheapest 2011 Air is Apple's entry-level notebook. This isn't necessarily a good thing. Those who want a bigger screen, an optical drive and more than 64GB of onboard storage must now spend a little more on a 13-inch MacBook Pro. But that will hardly worry those considering this top-specced model. It's smaller, lighter and portable, yet powerful enough to use as your sole computer.

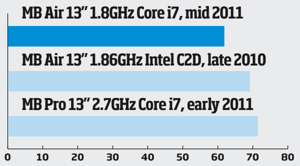
Ian Osborne

>> BENCHMARKS / How does the MacBook Air stack up?



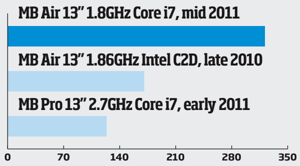
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Uses *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 at Ultra quality. Tests graphics and performance. Higher is better.



Xbench

Xbench tests CPU and hard drive performance. Higher is better. A you can see the Air's SSD makes a big difference of the MacBook Pro.

>> APPLE MAC

Apple Mac mini 2.5GHz Core i5, mid 2011

£699 The revamped Mac mini is faster and more powerful than ever before. So what's missing?

Apple's entry-level Mac has always been something of a mixed bag: beautiful, compact and well-engineered on the one hand; over-priced and under-powered on the other. And every revamp brings more of the same. Is this mid-2011 model any different?

The good news is that Apple has finally managed to squeeze a choice of 2.3GHz or 2.5GHz Intel Core i5 processors into the Mac mini's 19.7x3.6x19.7cm 'biscuit tin' box, with the option to upgrade to a 2.7GHz Core i7 model for an extra £80. The new CPUs replace the Intel Core 2 Duo of last year's models with a promised 2x performance boost.

The latest Mac mini has followed the MacBook Air's lead and got rid of its optical disk drive.

Apple has also given gaming and movie viewing a boost with a discrete AMD Radeon HD6630M graphics card – and the Mac mini now sports a Thunderbolt port in place of the Mini DisplayPort which debuted last year. Sitting alongside that are HDMI and Ethernet ports, four USB 2.0 ports, a FireWire 800 port and an SD graphics card slot. It's amazing how Apple has managed to pack so much into a tiny package. And then you notice what Apple has taken away…

One of the things that has drawn so many people to the Mac mini is that it makes for a great home entertainment PC. Its compact design and SuperDrive made it ideal for use as a DVD player replacement, especially when last year's revamp added an HDMI port as well. Only now Apple has gone and removed the optical drive altogether and replaced it with an infra-red window for the optional £15 aluminium remote control instead. There are two reasons for this: one, taking out the optical drive was the only way Apple could shoehorn in the Core i5/i7 processors and a discrete graphics card; and two, Apple doesn't much care for optical discs: see the MacBook Air or Apple's forthcoming iCloud service for evidence.

"The Core i5 processor trashed its Core 2 Duo predecessor in all our tests – and it's the same story with its graphic performance"

The only way you can get that functionality back is to either use another Mac with an optical drive and OS X's Remote Disc facility – or to buy an optional MacBook Air SuperDrive for £66. That's either a deal-breaker or a fuss over nothing, depending on your point or view.

Yet there is a lot to love about the new Mac mini. The Core i5 processor trashed its Core 2 Duo predecessor in all our tests – and it's the same story with its graphics performance.

You now have two different models to choose from, compared to last year's one: the entry-level 2.3GHz version with 2GB of RAM and a 320GB hard disk at £529 (£83 cheaper than the old model) and this 2.5GHz version with 4GB of RAM and a 500GB hard disk at £699. Both are excellent value for money.

Rob Mead-Green

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

Developer: 2.5GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 with 3MB shared level 3 cache **RAM:** 4GB (2x2GB) of 1333MHz DDR3 **Hard disk:** 500GB 5400rpm Serial ATA **Ports:** 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800 port, 4x **USB** 2.0 ports, SDXC memory card slot **Optical drive:** none **Display:** none **Graphics:** AMD Radeon HD6630M with 256MB of dedicated GDDR5 video memory **Dimensions:** 19.7x3.6x19.7cm **Weight:** 1.22kg

PROS & CONS

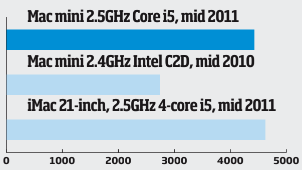
- ⊕ Much faster than 2010 model
- ⊕ Great for HD movies and games
- ⊕ Thunderbolt I/O port
- ⊕ Prices start at £529
- ⊖ No optical drive
- ⊖ Limited appeal

VERDICT

★★★★☆

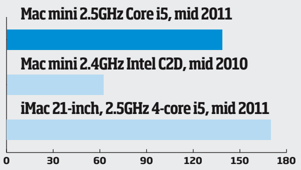
"Fast performance for such a small Mac, but the lack of DVD drive might put off media lovers."

>> BENCHMARKS / How does the Mac mini stack up?



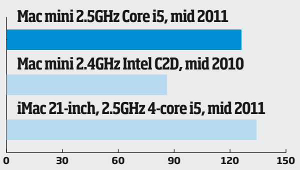
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, *Cinebench* reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



Xbench

A test that benchmarks the CPU and hard drive performance using *Xbench*'s CPU, Memory and Disk Tests. Higher is better.

>> MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER

Brother DCP-J925DW

£150 Part of the new Brother range

The new range has more style than previous Brother printers, but its glossy black finish soon gets dirty.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Brother UK Ltd
www.brother.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Tech: Inkjet **Resolution:** Up to 6000x1200dpi **Inks:** Four tanks **Paper:** 100 sheets **Card formats:** Memory stick/SD card **Dimensions:** 40.5x37.8x18cm **Weight:** 9.3kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Good value for money
- ⊕ Decent feature range
- ⊖ Average print output
- ⊖ Mediocre build quality

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Fine for those wanting cheap, functional printing, but not for connoisseurs."

Brother has a reputation for inexpensive printers with solid but unspectacular printouts. Its new range offers a better feature set than previous Brother multifunction products, but its print quality still lags behind its leading rivals.

The DCP-J925DW is the priciest of three new DCP models, but is still only £150. It has Wi-Fi 'n', Ethernet and USB connectivity, and its single paper tray has a space for postcard-sized photo paper. You still have to remove it and make a mechanical adjustment before printing photos, but it's easier than with previous Brother printers.

Duplex printing and copying are catered for, as is Pictbridge, printing from USB and most SD/MS formats, and even printing to optical discs. Indeed, the DCP-J925DW is surprisingly fast for a budget home printer, taking just over two minutes to print a 20-page text document, and around four and a half minutes for a top-quality A4 photo.

Its text printing is robust but a little unspectacular, with characters a bit grey and blurred around the edges. Default-quality plain-paper colour printouts are bleached and banded. After boosting the print resolution and using quality photo paper it gives reasonable results, but the colours are a little washed out and over-red, and there's a noticeable banding on the greyscale ramp. These problems aren't hugely detrimental to the overall picture quality, but they're definitely noticeable when compared to any of Canon's PIXMA range or the HP Photosmart's output.

Ian Osborne

>> WIRELESS AUDIO DONGLES

Audio Pro WF100

£150 Link your stereo to your Mac – wirelessly

The 'House Code' band switches enable you to field three separate frequencies in close proximity.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Audio Pro
www.audiopro.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Sample rate: 44.1KHz **RF band:** 2.4GHz **Connectors:** 1x RCA Y-cable, 2x 3.5mm stereo cable, USB AC adaptor **Interface:** USB 2.0

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ CD-quality wireless audio
- ⊕ Plug-and-play simplicity
- ⊕ Multi-room possibilities
- ⊖ Still feels pricey

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great way to link your Mac's audio to legacy hi-fi equipment without wires."

Back in September Apple released AirPlay, its streaming protocol capable of wirelessly transmitting your *iTunes* media to compatible hardware. Since then we've seen a handful of hi-fi stereos and speakers come with support for AirPlay's lossless audio component. Still, that's fat use if you already own an otherwise perfectly decent home stereo setup. Apple's answer? Buy an AirPort Express. Not so fast: Scandinavian company Audio Pro thinks it has a better solution.

The WF100 wireless audio system works by way of two USB dongles – one transmitter, one receiver – whose setup couldn't be simpler. Attach the transmitter to your Mac; then using the supplied USB AC power adapter and RCA Y-cable (or mini jack), connect the receiver to your stereo amp. There's no fiddling with drivers here: simply choose USB sound output in your OS X preferences then watch the dongle LEDs rapidly turn blue to signal they've paired – leaving you to enjoy crystal-clear, delay-free audio from up to 50m away.

Audio Pro's proprietary protocol is universal and offers system-wide audio streaming, which trumps AirPlay's *iTunes*-only limitation. You can even expand your wireless setup by adding extra receivers, but coming in at £85 a pop, this rears the ugly head of expense.

At £150, the WF100 set feels pricey for what it is. But if you're eager to mate your Mac with legacy audio equipment that still shines, the benefit might just outweigh the cost.

Tim Hardwick

Like something out of Terminator, the Cyborg R.A.T. 9 is a tech tinkerer's dream.

>> GAMING MOUSE

Mad Catz Cyborg R.A.T. 9

£100 Could this be the most versatile mouse controller ever built?

Mad Catz' Cyborg R.A.T. gaming mice were released early last year to great acclaim, but Mac drivers only appeared this summer. It was worth the wait. This top-of-the-range R.A.T. 9 is an amazing piece of engineering, and a boon for gamers.

R.A.T. 9 is incredibly configurable. You can stretch or shorten its body, and add or remove weights. An Allen key stored in the rear is used to reposition the side buttons, moving them forwards and backwards until you find a comfortable position. It also removes and replaces body parts; choose from a selection bundled with the mouse.

Its *Cyborg Editor* software offers extensive programming features. You can assign four sensitivity settings, from 100 to 5600dpi, and switch between them on the fly using a rocker behind the scroll wheel. A Precision Aim button on the side of the mouse increases this sensitivity while held - great for fine-tuning the crosshairs on your sniper rifle. Individual buttons can be reprogrammed to represent single or multiple key inputs; and you can set up three different 'modes', with the buttons performing different tasks according to which mode the mouse is in. Again, you can switch between them on the fly.

Profiles for specific games and apps can be saved, and you can even download profiles from the Mad Catz website. The wireless R.A.T. 9 is powered by a removable cell charged in the receiver. Two are supplied, which is just as well - in our tests, we found ourselves changing them every two or three days. Response time is around 1ms, so there's no noticeable lag.

> *"You can assign four sensitivity settings, from 100 to 5600dpi, and switch between them on the fly"*

The driver software shows its 1.0 youth in several key areas. It's currently impossible to set a button as a modifier, performing its function when pressed and held. The instructions that should be found under the Support tab are missing too, leaving you to puzzle out its more esoteric features yourself. We're told both these omissions are currently being addressed, and an update is due in August. Until then, the Mad Catz Cyborg R.A.T. 9 falls slightly shy of perfection, but it's still the best wireless gaming mouse we've ever used.

Ian Osborne

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Mad Catz
www.cyborggaming.com

SPECIFICATIONS

System requirements: OS X 10.6.6
Connectivity: 2.4GHz wireless
Buttons: 7 **Resolution:** 25-5600dpi
Power: Rechargeable cell

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Massively configurable
- ⊕ Fast and accurate
- ⊕ Great programmable features
- ⊖ Drivers need work

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A brilliantly designed input device that's as good for day-to-day use as it is for gaming."

Words: **Ian Osborne**

01

02

03

04

KEYBOARD

Scosche freeKEY

£45 www.scosche.com

01 This interesting Bluetooth keyboard measures 29.5x11x1cm when in use, but rolls up to measure around 11x6x3cm for transportation. It comes bundled with a US cable for charging, but curiously, no carry case. Its sealed rubber design makes it easy to clean, which is useful for travellers; and although it uses a Windows layout, it can be paired quickly and easily with a Mac or iOS device. Unfortunately, it isn't very comfortable to use. You soon get used to its size, but some keys seem to need a heavier press than others, leaving missing letters as you type.

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"It's a nice idea, but too awkward for long-form typing of any sort."

EARBUDS

RHA MA-350

£30 www.rhacoustics.com

02 RHA's first set of earbuds are based on the aerophonic design of a trumpet's bell. They sit comfortably in the ears, cutting out most background noise, and come supplied with small, medium and large tips. They feature an anti-tangle cable, but no inline controls for iOS devices. There's a velvet drawstring bag to carry them in too. The MA-350s supply a very complete and natural sound. Vocal reproduction is commendable, though bass is less well realised: It's prominent and meaty, but lacks the clarity of the top and mid-tones. But this doesn't stop the earbuds being a bargain.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Refreshingly capable for such a low-cost set of earbuds, and comfortable to boot."

PORTABLE HDD

Freecom XXS Leather 320GB

£84 www.freecom.com

03 This 2.5-inch portable hard drive is sewn into its cover. And, it's not a slipcase for a more conventional drive – the casing is actually made of leather. It's very small, measuring just 11.3x8.6x1cm, and sits comfortably in your pocket without scratching your phone or wearing a hole in the lining. It's FAT32-formatted, so can be read by Macs and PCs, but it can't handle files bigger than 4GB. You can reformat it if you wish. It's USB 3.0, but unless you have a Mac with a Thunderbolt port and an adapter for USB 3.0, you're limited to USB 2.0 speeds. It's stylish, but expensive for 320GB.

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A gorgeous, well-sized pocket drive, but its leathery style comes at a price."

iOS STAND

Philips FlexAdapt

£20 www.philips.com

04 There's more to this flexible iPhone and iPod stand than meets the eye. As well as propping up your iOS device in a landscape or portrait orientation, its bendy mid-section can be twisted into all sorts of angles. Hang it from a nail in the wall, balance it on the edge of your desk or lower the profile for easy typing. A USB cable connects the dock to the mains or to your Mac for syncing. FlexAdapt's small size means it's portable, but next to useless for the iPad. You can use it as a sync or charging cable for Apple's all-conquering tablet, but it's not big enough to act as a stand.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A useful, convenient and versatile syncing and charging stand."

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» ACTION

Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£30 (Steam) Ezio's adventure continues. This time, Rome beckons

KEY INFO

Developer: Ubisoft
www.ubisoft.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 **Processor:** Intel Core i5 2.66GHz or better **RAM:** 4GB **Video:** ATI Radeon® HD 4850, NVIDIA GeForce 200 or better, 512MB VRAM **Disk space:** 9GB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ The story continues
- ⊕ Rome is stunning
- ⊕ Improved combat
- ⊕ Good recruiting system
- ⊕ Excellent horseplay
- ⊕ Multiplayer mode

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Brotherhood not only continues the story, but introduces a slew of new features. Stunning!"

Hot on the heels of *Assassin's Creed II* (relatively speaking) comes the next chapter in Ubisoft's incredible series. But far from being just a rapidly churned-out chunk of similar material designed to cash in on the previous game, *Brotherhood* is a stunning game in its own right, and more importantly contains many new features and improvements that really move the series forward.

Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood is the second game to feature Ezio Auditore as the lead character and this is the middle game of Ezio's trilogy, which will conclude with *Assasin's Creed: Revelations* in the not-too-distant future. We don't have the space to recap the entire *Creed* story here, so if you haven't played before we strongly suggest you go and buy *Assassin's Creed II*, because it's worth experiencing Ezio's whole epic saga. In this game however, without giving away too many spoilers, Ezio returns to his home town only to see it attacked by the Templars and left in ruins. In response he travels to Rome to seek vengeance against the Templars and Cesare Borgia, who ordered the attack.

Behold the ancient Pantheon as you ride into the hub of Rome in all its architectural glory.

Whereas in previous games the action took place across a number of historic locations, this time round the story is pretty much entirely based in Rome; but the scale of the place ensures that this adventure feels every bit as grand and sweeping as Ezio's previous outing.

"If Rome provides a suitably fresh and surprising backdrop to the adventure, the same can be said of the retooled gameplay"

And if Rome provides a suitably fresh and surprising backdrop to the adventure, the same can be said of *Brotherhood*'s retooled gameplay. First of all, the combat has been revamped. Enemies now attack simultaneously, Ezio can perform multiple attacks in response, and perform aggressive initial attacks as well as counters. He can also use a variety of close-up attacks, assassinations and projectile attacks.

Brotherhood also introduces a system of recruiting new assassins, who can then be called upon to perform tasks or help out in tricky combat situations. By taking disgruntled citizens under his wing, Ezio can manage their training and allocate tasks for them to gain experience and develop as assassins.

In addition, in *Brotherhood*, getting around Rome isn't all about leaping around the rooftops or skulking in alleys. Here you can make use of horses to travel through the city, as well as perform some combat and assassination moves from the saddle.

The fun doesn't end there though. Da Vinci has provided another slew of natty toys to play with, including a mental machine gun, a flying machine, parachute and various weapon enhancements.

The icing on the cake has to be the all-new multiplayer mode. Here players can wander around city maps trying to blend in with the crowd of NPCs as they locate and assassinate rival players. All the while they must try not to be detected themselves.

Brotherhood is an amazing mix of the familiar and the fresh. The central story is perhaps not quite as rich and dramatic as that of the previous game, but the new features and side quests more than amply fill the gap. Once again, *Assassin's Creed* proves to be a rewarding experience.

Andy Dyer

Multiplayer games come in both team and individual flavours, adding to the fun.

>> TOWER DEFENCE

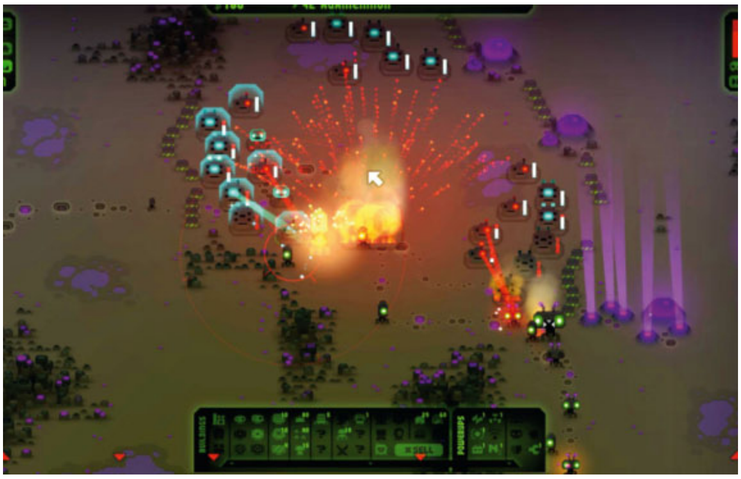
Revenge of the Titans

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£8.99 It may look like Tower Defence with retro graphics, but there's more to it than that

Developers of iOS games have lately been trying to do something a little different with the tower defence formula (*Vampire Rush*), or at least trying to nail it definitively (*Tower Defense: Lost Earth*). But there's not a lot you can do with such a rigidly defined genre without your game becoming something else entirely.

However, Puppygames cleverly poked and prodded at the boundaries of the genre. Now the developer has finally came up with something that remains powerfully tower-defence in flavour, but is actually a great deal more besides.



Earth is under attack by alien hordes from Titan - and you thought it was just a pretty moon.

Star system assault

The premise is that Earth (and later the Moon, Mars and Saturn) is being invaded by giant alien hordes from Titan and it's up to earth's military commanders to fight them off. Unfortunately, they have a very limited budget with which to do so.

Each of the game's 50 levels essentially requires you to protect at all costs the home base that is the ultimate object of the Titan's desires. You do this by placing various weaponised turrets around the environment in order to pick off the bad guys as they approach. If we were to leave it there, you would be under the illusion that this is, for all intents and purposes, yet another standard tower defence clone. But here's where it gets interesting.

Unlike the bad guys in other tower defence games who are restricted to moving along a fixed path, the Titans are capable of deciding their own route to your base. More important than that though, they're quite happy to deviate from their inexorable journey to your camp in order to counter any threats they perceive on their way there. So rather than simply filing past turrets that are trying to blast them to smithereens, the Titans will perform a ruthless pile-on and destroy all your carefully planned and constructed defences before resuming their central task.

For that reason alone, traditional tower defence thinking has to be discarded in lieu of a more complex real-time strategy approach. Soon you find you need to set up arrays of towers to keep initial waves of Titans at bay, while you continue to mine valuable resources then build up secondary defences to take on the invasion proper. Throughout this, you have to keep checking your existing resources in order to decide which areas of attack to concentrate on, which defences to bolster, or where to cut and run.

> *"Each of the game's 50 levels requires you to protect at all costs the home base that is the ultimate object of the Titans' desires"*

Xenopsychology

The game's complex technology tree also adds to all this wonderful freedom and chaos. While it's tempting to research items that will offer you immediate benefits, you might actually be better off taking another route. For example, researching Xenopsychology offers you nothing at all right now, but when it enables you to plant decoys, it's another matter entirely. And should you go for researching that slightly better turret? Or instead research the eight different items that will deliver repair drones? Real-time strategy fans will recognise and appreciate these tactical cogitations.

Revenge of the Titans is a wonderfully different and complex take on what's becoming a rather overcrowded genre. Add to that its beautifully retro pixel art graphics – which we hadn't even mentioned yet – and this only increases its unconventional appeal. A titanically enjoyable game.

Andy Dyer

KEY INFO

Developer: Ubisoft Montreal
www.ubisoft.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 or later **Processor:** Intel Core 2 Duo **RAM:** 2GB **Video:** ATI Radeon HD 2600 series or higher, 512MB VRAM **Disk space:** 10GB **Other:** Broadband

PROS & CONS

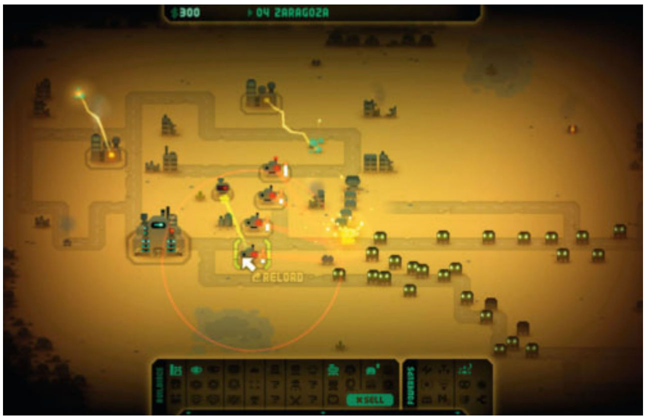
- ⊕ Looks great
- ⊕ Excellent cover system
- ⊕ Gripping story
- ⊕ Co-operative mode
- ⊕ Innovative gameplay
- ⊖ Slightly unstable

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Aside from the occasional crash, this is a gripping and spectacular game."

Outwit the alien menace with some well-placed turrets around your base.



>> PUZZLE ADVENTURE

Puzzle Agent 2

£6.25 Investigate the mystery of Scoggins

KEY INFO

Developer: Kavcom Ltd

www.telltalegames.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6.6 or later

Disk space: 147MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Amusing animations
- ⊕ Slick gameplay
- ⊕ Excellent reward system
- ⊕ Multiple play modes
- ⊖ Painfully difficult

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"An enjoyable and amusing shooter with plenty of splatter."

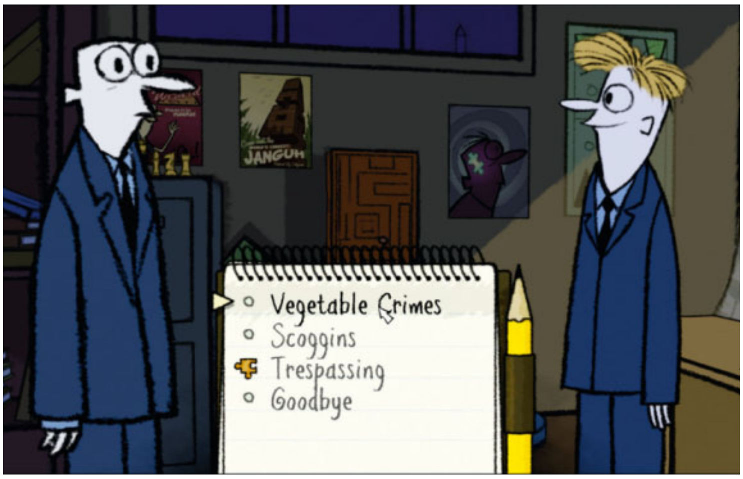
Anyone fancy a game about a puzzle-solving investigator who must look into the mysterious goings-on in an odd town whose residents have been disappearing? Don't get too excited – Nintendo's Professor Layton series isn't making an appearance on the Mac. No, it's just the latest chapter of *Puzzle Agent*, which has a premise that's spookily similar to Layton's, but just lacks the depth and polish.

In *Puzzle Agent 2*, hapless FBI investigator Nelson Tethers returns to the remote town of Scoggins to clear up a few of the loose ends left after his first visit; what follows is pretty much a carbon copy of the original game. The player's travels around Scoggins are played out through point-and-click scenes, and amusing animated sequences of dialogue and action that illustrate the story. These scenes are punctuated by puzzles of various types, perhaps requiring you to complete a number sequence, crack a code or solve a logic problem. Time to get your thinking cap on!

It's all pretty enjoyable and the story is genuinely funny and intriguing. The issues are these: first, many of the puzzles are similar in structure, so while there are plenty of them, there's not nearly enough variety. In addition, the animated scenes are far too numerous, forcing you to sit through huge amounts of dialogue between the puzzles.

With a tighter narrative and more challenge variety, this would have been a great game. As it is, it's more of the same jolly but uninspiring stuff we saw in the original.

Andy Dyer



Nelson's got himself some competition at the Puzzle Department of the FBI.

>> STRATEGY

Worms: Special Edition

£6.99 The wriggly little warmongers are back

KEY INFO

Developer: Team 17

www.team17.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.6 or later

Disk space: 666MB

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks amazing
- ⊕ New weapons
- ⊕ Extremely funny
- ⊕ Local multiplayer
- ⊖ No online play

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A super version with great visuals, new weapons and an air of hilarity."

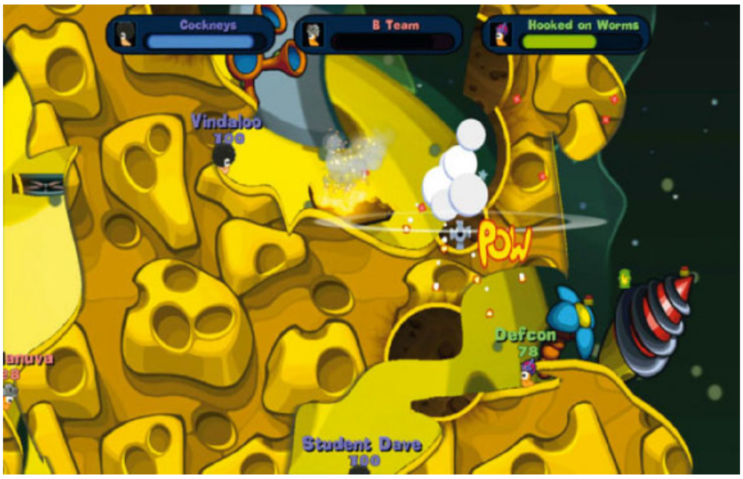
Team 17's *Worms* games – which have been released on various gaming platforms since the 1995 original appeared on the Amiga – are always worth a look. Not every release has been a triumph, but there's always something there to put a smile on your face. And the great news is, *Worms: Special Edition* on the Mac is a particularly excellent outing for the violent and squishy little heroes (and villains) of the piece.

If you've not played before, you're in for a treat. Teams of cartoon worms face off against one another in a series of colourful, surreal and mostly hazardous locations. By taking turns, teams must use trial and error to move around, aim and fire a variety of impressive weapons at one another in a bid to annihilate the opposing team and win the battle. It's simple, but challenging and most importantly, bloody hilarious.

This release features a meaty singleplayer campaign including some amazing landscapes, a customisable team of worms and a bunch of new weapons including an Electromagnet, a Poison Strike, a Super Bunker Buster and Ferrets! There's also a local network option for multiplayer antics and a superb one-worm-against-the-world Bodycount Mode.

Worms: Special Edition is a great release for fans and a perfect introduction for those new to the game. Lack of online multiplayer is a bit of a shame but apart from that, this is essential gaming.

Andy Dyer



Shoot ferrets at opposing players on a moon landscape made of cheese. This is Worms, people!

T3

Gadget Awards 2011

What gets your vote?

Ensure that your favourite kit makes the crucial shortlist stage in the UK's biggest gadget awards

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World of Apps

Reviews by: Graham Barlow, Laurence Cable, Andy Dyer, Tim Hardwick

>iPAD >iPHONE >iPOD TOUCH

>> THE BEST iOS APPS HERE

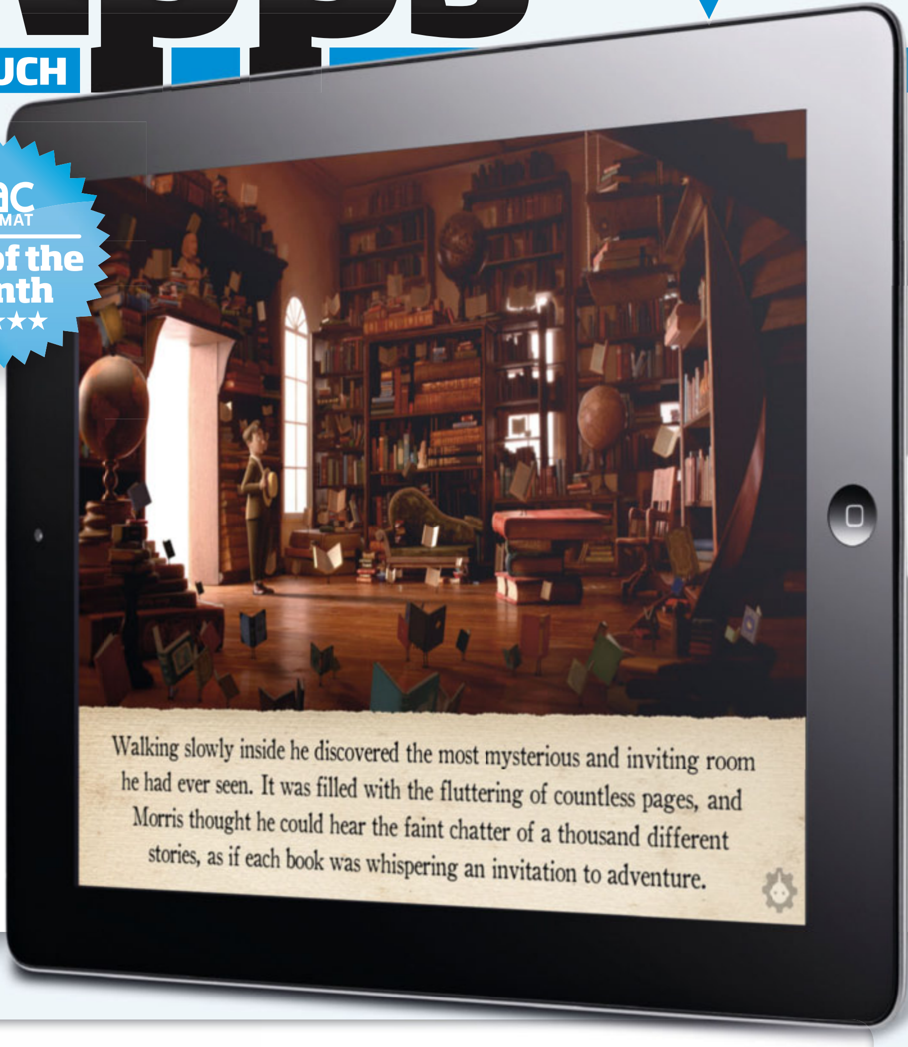
Whether you've got an iPhone, iPod touch or an iPad, this is the best place to come to discover great new iOS apps and get the latest tips!

Mac FORMAT
App of the month
★★★★★

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore

Graham recommends: "With two young boys to keep entertained I'm always on the lookout for kids' apps, and this is one of the best I've seen. It's a storybook that looks and feels like a Pixar movie. Each page has a fun interactive element too. It's so well made it's worth trying even if you haven't got kids!"

Price: £2.99 **Works with:** iPad



Walking slowly inside he discovered the most mysterious and inviting room he had ever seen. It was filled with the fluttering of countless pages, and Morris thought he could hear the faint chatter of a thousand different stories, as if each book was whispering an invitation to adventure.

Must-have apps

Three great iOS apps nobody should have to live without

iA Writer

£2.99 A word processor with focus

Developer: Information Architects Inc **Works with:** iPad

Pages is still the most popular iPad word processing app, but *iA Writer* is fast becoming the choice of the professional writer. It uses a customised keyboard that means you don't need to switch keyboards to get punctuation symbols, and you can move the cursor with arrow keys.

Reeder for iPad

£2.99 Manage your RSS feeds

Developer: Silvio Rizzi **Works with:** iPad

While *Flipboard* is still a great app for combining your Twitter, Facebook and Google Reader feeds, if you want to just look at your RSS feeds then *Reeder* has the edge, thanks to its great sharing options. iPod touch and iPhone users, don't despair – there's also a version for you on the App Store!

UK Train Times

£4.99 Get real-time train times

Developer: Agant Ltd. **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch

If you travel regularly by train then this iPhone app is an essential buy. You can use it for looking up train times, but the clever bit is that it tells you when your next train is, and if it's been delayed, so you can leave the house at a proper time and not end up waiting on the platform.

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INSIDE EACH ISSUE:

› The latest essential apps and games
› New kit for iPhone, iPad & iPod touch
› Learn to use your device with our guides

>> STUDY HELPER

Evernote Peek

£FREE Use your iPad 2 to study

Developer: Evernote **Version:** 1.1.0 **Works with:** iPad 2, Smart Cover

Revising for exams is never fun, but you can make it less of a drag with this iPad 2 app, which makes innovative use of the Smart Cover. Create question and answer notes in a free Evernote account (on your iPad or Mac, but annoyingly not in *Peek* itself), upload them to your account and the app downloads them. Load up the notes, shut the Smart Cover and peel back the first panel to reveal the question. Think of the answer, then lift the rest of the cover to see if you were right!

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An innovative, thoughtful new use for the Smart Cover."

>> NOTEBOOK

Bamboo Paper

£FREE A notebook app from the tablet masters

Developer: Wacom Europe GmbH **Version:** 1.3 **Works with:** iPad, iOS 4.2 or later

Hot on the heels of its first iPhone and iPad stylus comes Wacom's notebook app. Best used with said pointy device, it's a lovely way to sketch or take handwritten notes on the iPad. So lovely, in fact, that it's replaced *Penultimate* as our de facto app for this purpose, thanks largely to its responsive ink system. Version 1.3 added an in-app purchase option to buy 20 more notebooks – a welcome boost. The pen colours and thicknesses are limited, but don't let this put you off.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Bamboo Paper is now our favourite app for sketching."

>> WEATHER SCREENSAVER

Aelios Weather

£1.99 Even British weather can look beautiful

Developer: Jime **Version:** 1.0.1 **Works with:** iPad, iOS 4.3 or later

This gets classed as a weather app, but it's so much more than that. Imagine the Satellite view in the *Maps* app, with a stylish lens in the middle. You pan across the map to focus the viewing lens on a location, and it locks onto the nearest city, town or village. A few seconds later, the main map dims to a 24-hour or seven-day forecast for your chosen spot. Whenever we're not using our iPad, it's our screensaver. Words don't do it justice: get it now and try it out for yourself!

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Combines stunning looks with a detailed weather forecast."

>> HOUSE BUYING HELPER

Kirstie and Phil's House Hunter

£3.99 A crash course for first-time buyers

Developer: BBC Worldwide LTD **Version:** 1.0.1 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch, iOS 4 or later

From TV property presenters Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer, this app gives you a crash course in the home buying process, with questions to ask and things to look out for. It also lets you take notes and photos while you're viewing houses. Packed with information, it's undoubtedly useful, even if certain details get glossed over. A handy little app.

VERDICT

★★★★☆

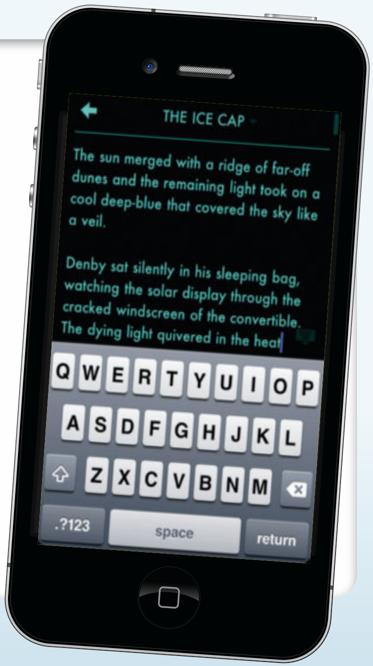
"A good starting point for first-time buyers, with lots of info."

Apps round-up

Tim's guide to more great apps now available on App Store

Writer's write; they always have. But these days, they also tap. And while Apple's *Notes* app serves as a simple way to dash off snippets of text at a moment's notice, it pales in comparison to some of the more sophisticated writerly apps now available on the App Store. Enter ***WriteRoom* (£2.99, Hog Bay Software)** for the iPad and iPhone pictured right. Now in its third iteration, this highly customisable writing environment offers an array of font and colour options, file management features and Dropbox integration. Other capabilities now include a word count, link detection and full text search. For something more serene, however, seek out ***OmmWriter for iPad* (£2.99, Herraiz, Soto & Co)** whose zen-like writing space and ambient soundscapes strive to spur your literary enlightenment. If that sounds a little contrived for your minimalist tastes, be sure to check out ***iA Writer***, covered on the opposite page.

But what if you still admire the convenience of *Notes*? Is there a better app for taking down sudden flashes of inspiration that can occur at any moment? That would surely be ***Evernote* (free, Evernote Software)**. This app's notes can take many forms, from a text snippet, web page or web page excerpt, to a photo, voice memo, or even a handwritten 'ink' note. Notes are archived and synced online, guaranteeing that great idea is safe!



THE ICE CAP

The sun merged with a ridge of far-off dunes and the remaining light took on a cool deep-blue that covered the sky like a veil.

Denby sat silently in his sleeping bag, watching the solar display through the cracked windscreen of the convertible. The dying light quivered in the heat

Get your album art

Have a music library that looks as good as it sounds!

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

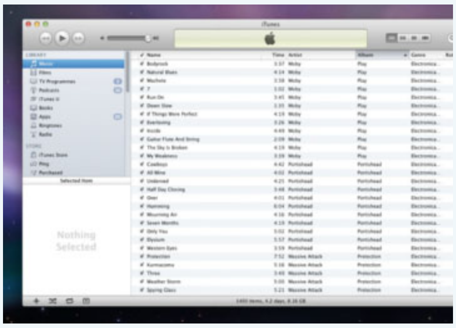
TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
An internet connection

We love a bit of eye candy, and some of the best you'll get is on the covers of music albums, which you can enjoy on your iPhone, iPod touch or iPad. Music you buy from *iTunes* comes with artwork included, but if you've imported your CDs you may well have a few missing covers, especially when the music is rare. We're going to show you how to fill the gaps so that your music library looks as good as it sounds! In many cases, *iTunes* can find the artwork for you, though you can add it manually. There are also desktop apps that can help, such as *CoverScout* or *Album Cover Finder*.

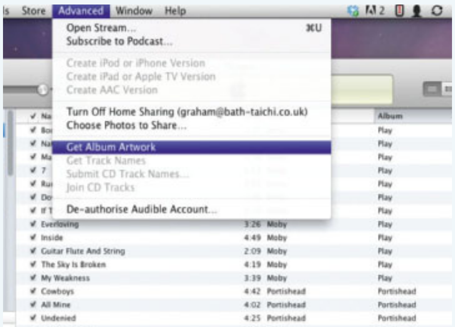
Laurence Cable

HOW TO / Add album art



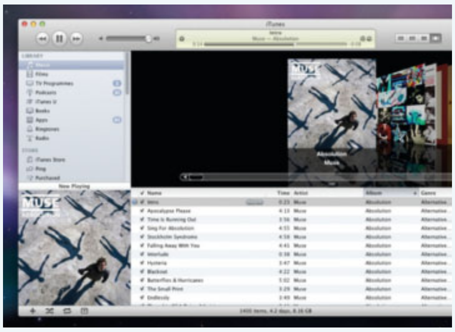
01 Get set up

Open *iTunes* and make sure the artwork thumbnail is visible in the bottom-left corner (click the box with the up arrow in it to make it appear). Click iTunes Store and sign in if it doesn't log you in automatically.


Store
Advanced
Window
Help
Open Stream... ⌘U
Subscribe to Podcast...
Create iPod or iPhone Version
Create iPad or Apple TV Version
Create AAC Version
Turn Off Home Sharing (graham@bath-taichi.co.uk)
Choose Photos to Share...
Get Album Artwork
Get Track Names
Submit CD Track Names...
Join CD Tracks
De-authorise Audible Account...

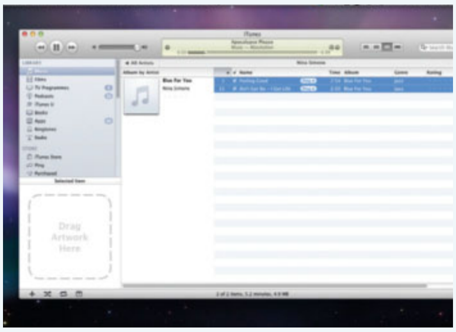
02 Add artwork automatically

Once you're signed into the iTunes Store, click **Music** under **Library** in the leftmost pane. Now go to the **Advanced** menu and choose **Get Album Artwork**. Then click **Get Album Artwork** again and let it work.



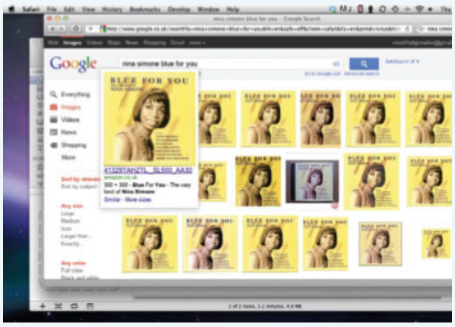
03 What's missing?

We'll now fill in anything still missing. Make sure the artwork thumbnail is marked **Selected Item** (click where it says **Now Playing** if it isn't). Now pop your library into **Cover Flow** mode using the **View** menu.



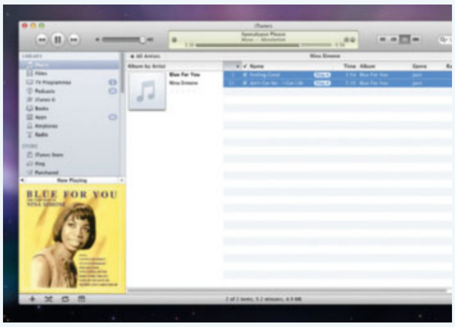
04 Fill in the gaps

Group your albums by clicking the Album column header and browsing using the arrow keys. When you come to an album without art, click the first track, hold ⇧ and click the last one. Now switch to Google.



05 Google the missing art

Search for the album, find a large image that's appropriate to use and click it. Then click **Full-size image**, right-click the cover and choose **Copy image**. In *iTunes*, right-click the artwork thumbnail and choose **Paste**.



06 Sync to your device

If you sync music automatically, the artwork will transfer to your device when you next sync. If you manage your tunes manually, click **Music** under your device, delete the tracks you've altered, then copy them across again. ●

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INSIDE EACH ISSUE:
› The latest essential apps and games
› New kit for iPhone, iPad & iPod touch
› Learn to use your device with our guides

»PHYSICS PUZZLER

To-Fu: The Trials of Chi HD

£1.19 Surprise! You're a lump of bean curd

KEY INFO

Developer: HotGen Ltd
Version: 1.2.0
Works with: iPad, iOS 3.2 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Nicely designed challenges
- ⊕ Amusing central character
- ⊕ Atmospheric effects
- ⊖ More bonus content please

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A pretty, amusing game, but more play modes would help."

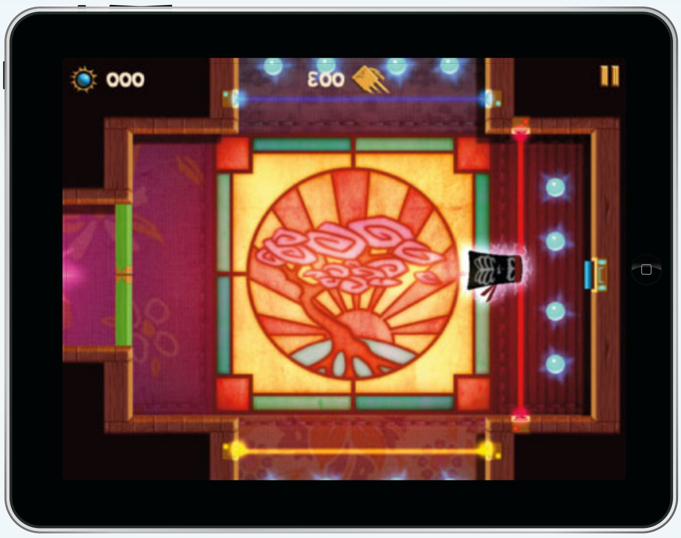
There have been some unusual game heroes over the years – plumbers, hedgehogs, geckos, bandicoots. We didn't see this one coming though. Chi is a small lump of stretchy tofu with the looks of a small cube of rubber but the skills and sensibilities of a ninja.

By placing your finger on Chi you can stretch him out, point him in the direction you want him to travel then let go to send him twanging through the air. He'll stick to pretty much any surface he hits so it's up to the player to send him back and forth, collecting stuff along the way before reaching the finish point, a giant fortune cookie.

Unfortunately spikes, spinning blades, conveyor belts, locked doors, slippery glass surfaces and bouncy plates conspire to make Chi's progress through the levels more problematic.

The way all these various elements are assembled, though, gives rise to surprisingly diverse challenges. One level might be an exercise in selecting precise trajectories while the next could test your reactions as you try to guide Chi through flickering laser beams. Or maybe you need to employ forward planning as Chi is sent ricocheting through a level full of bouncy metal panels.

To-Fu: The Trials of Chi is a beautifully designed game and it's only the lack of bonus features that prevent it from being a five-star title.



Accuracy and timing are crucial if you're to survive this level. Don't be distracted by eye candy!

»SPORTS

Flick Golf Extreme

£1.79 Play golf in places you never thought possible

KEY INFO

Developer: Full Fat Productions
Version: 1.0.2
Works with: iPhone, iPod touch, ipad, iOS 3.1 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Crazy courses
- ⊕ Mad aftertouch
- ⊕ Three play modes
- ⊖ More courses needed

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A short, fun game of not so much crazy, as totally insane, golf."

The building of new golf courses can be a controversial business thanks in no small part to the disruption and environmental damage caused during the construction process.

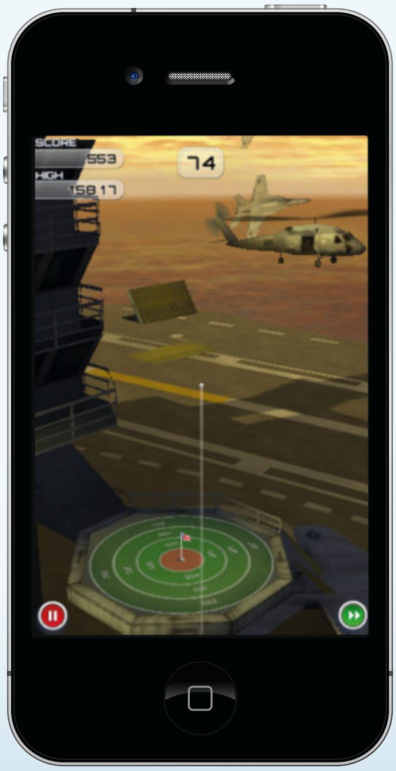
Given this physical bug, it's refreshing to see that Full Fat Productions has come up with the perfect solution… just play golf wherever you happen to be, and the more ridiculous and hazardous the location, the better. Also, they've done away with all that ridiculous hitting par nonsense and replaced the greens with a massive target. The closer you get to the pin, the higher your score. The better you perform the more medals you earn and the more courses you unlock.

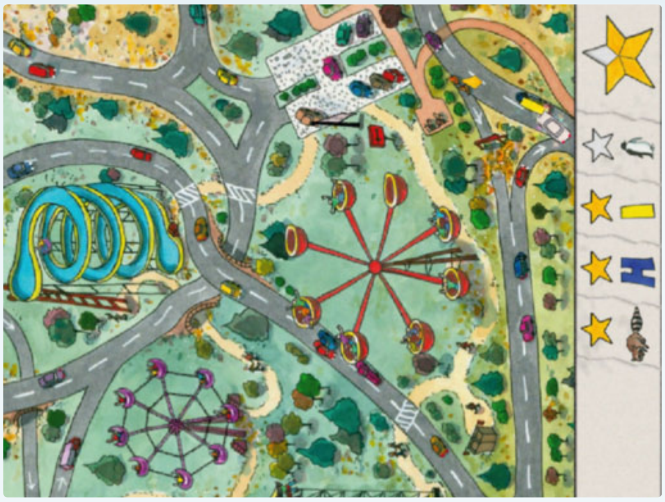
Better still, as soon as you've hit the ball you can put a ludicrous amount of spin on it initially to compensate for wind, but even to the point where you can change the ball's direction as it rolls around the green.

So a typical game might see you teeing off from inside a helicopter towards a green situated on an aircraft carrier. Mad. And extremely good fun. Plus there are three play modes – regular, timed and limited shots, essentially – to keep things interesting. The only flaw is the small number of courses (just five in this initial release).

It's immensely entertaining though, and the desire to keep trying to beat your own score and get a hole in one on every shot is irresistible. *Flick Golf Extreme* comes recommended.

Tee off onto this fully functioning aircraft carrier. There's a big water hazard nearby.





>> KIDS' PUZZLE GAME

Roxie's a-MAZE-ing

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

69p Kids will love this amazing adventure puzzle

Developer: oc graphics **Version:** 1.05 **Works with:** iPad

Most parents of small children will have a few maze books stashed away on their child's bookcase along with their traditional storybooks. In the former, you have to trace your way through a very detailed maze with your finger and spot a character hidden somewhere in the detailed drawing. This app takes the same concept to the iPad, where you guide a car through a city. Head off the screen and you open up another section of the city. There are hidden characters and letters to spot in each screen too, and the landscape is full of charming little animations that children will love. It also keeps their interest by adding in boat, plane and hot air balloon rides.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A lovely app that kids will want to play again and again."

>> WALKING ROUTE FINDER

Walkit

£1.99 Find your way around on foot

Developer: walkit.com Ltd Version: 1.0.3 Works with: iPhone, iPod touch, iOS 4 or later

The iPhone's *Maps* app gives walking directions from A to B, but it doesn't currently know much about footpaths, meaning it can send you the long way round on roads. *WalkIt* is working to bridge this gap, and though it doesn't yet cover the whole of the UK, it found us better walking routes in our Somerset hometown than *Maps*, even though Bath isn't on the list of included cities.

Sadly the app is clunky in its current form. And it's slow. Brilliant in principle, though.

VERDICT

★★½☆☆

"A great idea - if only the app was as good as Maps."

>> NEWS APP

C4 News

£FREE The latest from the Channel 4 newsroom

Developer: Channel 4 **Version:** 1.0.1 **Works with:** iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, iOS 3.1.3 or later

Channel 4 News's new app brings a selection of news, blogs and video from the broadcaster's website (like the web version, there's no sport). There's a decent amount there, though it would be nice to see a tad more. However, the iPad version also includes Special Reports and beautiful image galleries. The app itself looks lovely and is a breeze to navigate, and the more opinion-led blogs are a nice contrast to the harder news. A promising version 1.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

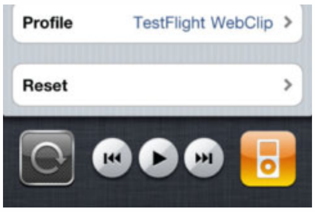
"A nicely designed and easy-to-use news app."

Essential iOS tips & tricks

Discover the little features that make a big difference

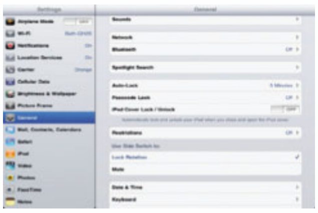
01 Automatic off

You can set your iOS device to automatically download any app you buy on another of your iOS devices. To turn this feature on or off, go to Settings > Store. You can also set it to do the same for all your iBookstore purchases.



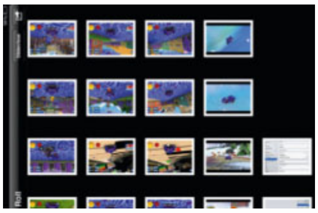
02 Lock the screen

Tired of your iPhone screen flipping about between landscape and portrait when you tilt your phone? You can lock it into one orientation by double-tapping the Home button and swiping right, then tapping the lock button.



03 iPad side switch

Your iPad's side switch can have two different jobs. In Settings > General you can set it to lock the rotation or your iPad's display, or it can function as a mute switch. A lock or mute button appears next to iPod controls in multitasking mode.



04 Take screenshot

Taking a screen shot on any iOS device is easy - just press and hold both the Sleep/Wake and Home buttons. The screen will flash and you'll hear a sound like a camera shutter. Look in your *Photos* app for the screenshot image.

OUT EVERY MONTH!

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01
02
03
mixtab
NetNewsWire
NewsRack
MacBook Pro
The most awesome Mac EVER!

[01] Mixtab
£Free No cost to you.

[02] NetNewsWire
£15 RSS stalwart.

[03] NewsRack
£4.99 Solid choice.

Six of the best R

Words: Laurence Cable

Get the news you want delivered to your Mac as it happens, using one of these affordable RSS apps

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication and is represented by its orange logo. If you see this logo on websites you can normally click it, but also look for the grey RSS button at the right-hand of *Safari's* address bar. Click this and *Safari* will show the site's RSS feeds.

Before you think RSS sounds too complicated and flick to another article, give us a few minutes to convince you how useful it is. It enables you to choose what news you're interested in and has it delivered directly to your Mac as it happens. No need to trawl through countless sites looking for interesting stuff; it will come to you.

To get started, find a source of news you want to read, add its RSS feed in your app of choice (a process known as subscribing), and hey presto, the news rolls in. Nearly all news sites have RSS feeds (also called newsfeeds), as do the major blogging services and Twitter, so you can effectively manage your entire news intake through an RSS reader, given the right subscriptions.

Safari and *Mail* enable you to subscribe to RSS feeds, but their handling of them is very basic – we wouldn't recommend using either for RSS, since there are so many great bespoke apps that do a better job. What we're looking for in these apps is ease of adding and managing lots of feeds and an elegant, easy-to-use layout that makes reading the news a pleasure. One other important factor to consider is Google Reader integration. To find out more about Google's RSS aggregator, have a look at the box over the page.

> *"To get started, find a source of news you want to read and add its RSS feed in your app of choice"*

There are two types of app here: the first type displays newsfeeds in columns and lists (*NetNewsWire*, *Reeder*, *Socialite* and *NewsRack*), whereas *Pulp* and *Mixtab* are more visual. Which you choose will depend on the kind of experience you want: if you subscribe to loads of different feeds, go for list-based, because it's the best way to work through lots of information nice and quickly. If you're after a more visually appealing look, go for one of the others. »

[04] Pulp
£5.99 Newspaper style.

[05] Reeder
£5.99 iOS originated.

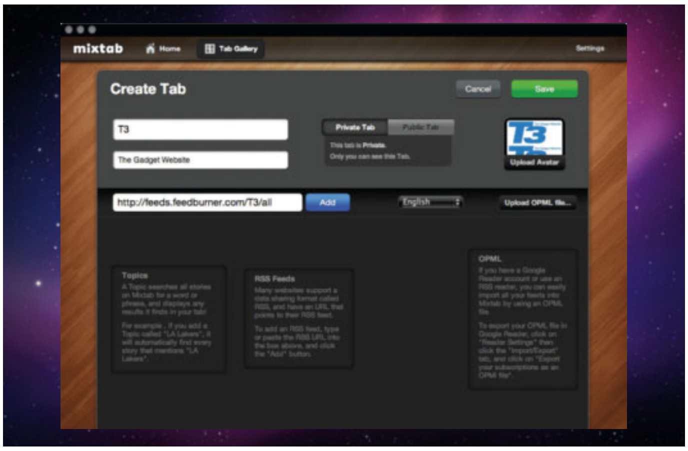
[06] Socialite
£5.99 With a social focus.

04
05
06
Softline Presents 2011
MacBook Pro

SS Newsreaders

» RSS NEWSREADERS / At a glance

	Mixtab	NetNewsWire	NewsRack	Pulp	Reeder	Socialite
Price	£FREE	£14.95	£4.99	£5.99	£5.99	£5.99
Company	Mixtab inc	Black Pixel	omz:software	Acrylic Software	Silvio Rizzi	Apparent Software
Version	1.2	3.2.15	1.1.1	2.0.1	1	1.3.4
Sync system	Mixtab	Google Reader	Google Reader	Pulp	Google Reader	Google Reader
Instapaper integration	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Readability integration	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Read it later integration	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sharing	Within Mixtab as public tabs	Mail, Twitter, Delicious, blog	Mail, Twitter, Facebook, Delicious	Mail, Twitter, Facebook	Mail, Twitter, Delicious, Pinboard, Zootool	Mail, Twitter
Dock icon unread count	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (up to 999)	Yes



T3

The Gadget Website

http://feeds.feedburner.com/T3/all

Adding a new feed to Mixtab is a bit of a convoluted process compared to the other apps.

»TEST ONE

Adding RSS feeds

How simple is it to add your favourite RSS feeds?

The four that sync to your Google Reader account – *NetNewsWire, NewsRack, Socialite* and *Reeder* – are a snip to set up. But only *Reeder* and *NewsRack* keep the feeds and folders in the same order they are on the Google account, and rearranging them is particularly irksome in *Socialite*, since it can hang as you move things.

Pulp will link to Google Reader, but only to pull in individual feeds – it won't bring in your whole list, nor will it keep read/unread items in sync. But to add feeds manually, you can often just type in the site's URL, rather than the specific feed one, and it'll soon find the feed. *NetNewsWire, Socialite* and *NewsRack* also allow this; *Reeder* goes one better by enabling you to search by keyword and finding the feed for you. Irritatingly, *Reeder* and *Socialite* don't let you rename feeds. You have to add them manually to *Mixtab*, but the process is a bit long-winded and it struggles with some URLs that other apps handle fine.

»TEST RESULTS

Mixtab	★★☆☆☆
NetNewsWire	★★★★☆
NewsRack	★★★★★
Pulp	★★★★☆
Reeder	★★★★½
Socialite	★★★☆☆

»TEST TWO

Design and feel

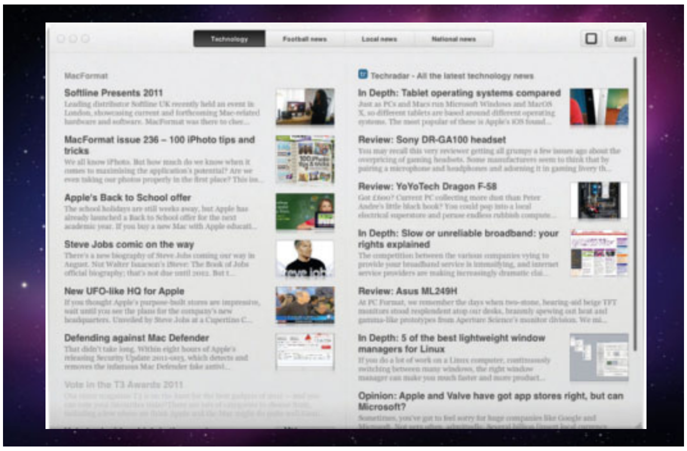
It's all about the looks bettering the reading experience

Of the list-based apps, *NetNewsWire, NewsRack* and *Socialite* look and feel like old-school Mac software: buttons, folder icons and so on are similar to native Snow Leopard apps including *Mail*. *Reeder* takes a refreshing, iOS-inspired approach. With bigger icons, buttons and toolbars, we love how it works so smoothly, new content and feeds fading in and out of view. It makes the other three feel rather antiquated.

Pulp is like a print newspaper with headlines on the front pages, which fold away like paper to read a story. We thoroughly enjoyed adding selected feeds to it and spending time reading over breakfast; it feels less like you're reading on a computer. But the interface isn't great for adding lots of feeds you want to skim through quickly. *Mixtab* displays each feed on a tile with a customisable logo or an image from the top article. But because of the odd behaviour of the images, making it look good can present a challenge.

»TEST RESULTS

Mixtab	★★★☆☆
NetNewsWire	★★★☆☆
NewsRack	★★★☆☆
Pulp	★★★★☆
Reeder	★★★★★
Socialite	★★★☆☆



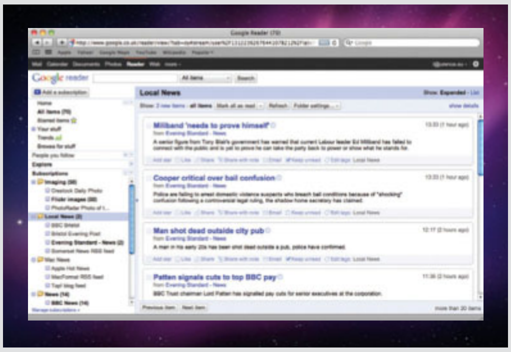
Pulp's clean looks make it feel more like you're reading a physical newspaper.

» GOOGLE READER / Why we love it

Google Reader is the search giant's free RSS aggregator service. Like the apps on test here, you can add multiple newsfeeds to it, and browse them in its web interface at **http://reader.google.com**. We're interested in it here, however, because of how well it works as a central place to store all your newsfeeds.

Rather than keeping them on your Mac, syncing to Google Reader means you can access all your feeds on multiple devices – your Mac, iPhone, iPad or anywhere in the world via the web. And not only can you have your newsfeeds at your fingertips no matter where you are, but you'll always be able to see which article you've yet to peruse, since the read/unread status of each item is kept in sync via Google too.

The four list-based RSS apps we've tested – *NetNewsWire, NewsRack, Reeder* and *Socialite* – all sync with Google Reader. *Pulp*, designed for you to be more selective with your feeds, also links to Google, but only to bring in individual feeds in the first instance – it doesn't then keep the read count synced with your Google account.



Google Reader can be viewed in any browser and on your iPhone.

»TEST THREE

Navigation

How easy is it to move between your various feeds?

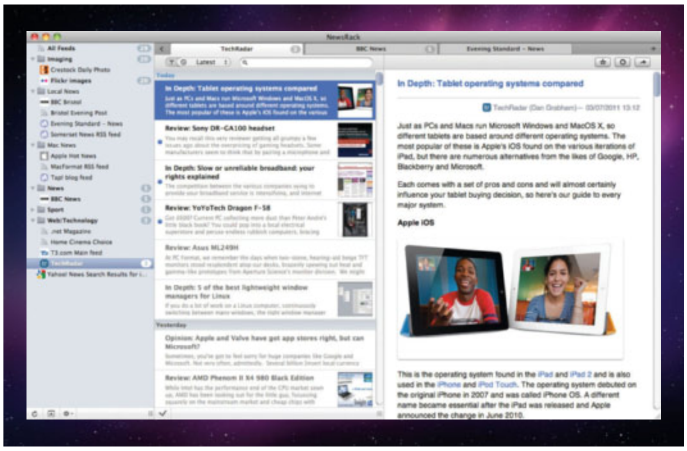
The simplest way to move between feeds is using just a mouse or trackpad, clicking through the news items one after the other, or going back and forth between the main pages and the articles in *Pulp* or *Mixtab*. But it's often easier to use a keyboard, and all the apps here allow at least some form of keyboard navigation – with shortcuts available if you want them. We found one of *Reeder*'s few flaws here: when you're moving around using the arrow keys, it can be hard to know which column's selected.

NewsRack, *Socialite*, *Reeder* and *Pulp* also let you navigate using multi-touch gestures, which makes moving from one story to the next an absolute joy.

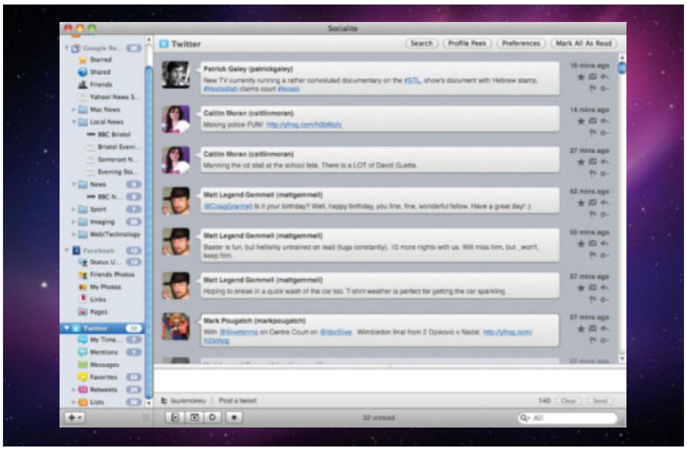
Socialite and *Pulp* bounce you to *Safari* to view an item in its original form, but we preferred the other four apps, which let you remain in the interface. Special kudos here to *NetNewsWire* and *NewsRack* for allowing multiple browsing tabs to be opened concurrently.

»TEST RESULTS

Mixtab	★★★☆☆
NetNewsWire	★★★½☆
NewsRack	★★★★½
Pulp	★★★★☆
Reeder	★★★★½
Socialite	★★★★☆



NewsRack's tabbed interface helps you switch quickly between fast-updating feeds.



Socialite lets you view Facebook and Twitter alongside your RSS feeds.

»TEST FOUR

Extra features

We pick out a few of the best hidden features

As far as further features go, *Socialite*'s got the most going for it, given it's more than just an RSS reader – it can be your entire social networking hub, pulling together Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Digg. If you use even some of these services, having everything in one place is excellent. But in trying to be all things, it falls short as an RSS reader overall, so we can't recommend it for this purpose.

Reeder's big extra feature is its built-in Readability viewer, which is truly amazing. Because many RSS feeds only contain the first few lines of the actual article, you often need to click through to the source website to read the full thing. But with the Readability viewer, you click a button (or unpinch on your trackpad) and *Reeder* attempts to pull through the full text into the app. No ads, no clutter, just what you want to read. Once you get used to using it, you'll wonder how you ever managed without. *Pulp* uses a similar system called Magic Reader.

»TEST RESULTS

Mixtab	★★☆☆☆
NetNewsWire	★★☆☆☆
NewsRack	★★★☆☆
Pulp	★★★★☆
Reeder	★★★★½
Socialite	★★★★★

»WINNER / Reeder

NetNewsWire and *NewsRack* are solid, business-like ways to keep on top of lots of feeds, *Pulp* is pure elegance, and an honourable mention goes to *Mixtab*, since it's the only free one here. But then along comes *Reeder* and quite simply blows the rest out of the water. Originally designed for the iPhone and iPad, it genuinely feels like part of a new generation of Mac apps in terms of its look, feel and ease of use. It's wonderfully elegant in the way its columns and articles glide in and out of view. It lets you use multi-touch gestures which are becoming so central to how the Mac works. And its built-in Readability viewer means you rarely have to view the full web page where the article came from. Overall, it's pure class.

»FINAL RESULTS

Mixtab	★★★☆☆
NetNewsWire	★★★☆☆
NewsRack	★★★★☆
Pulp	★★★½☆
Reeder	★★★★★
Socialite	★★½☆☆

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"Like Apple's Server Edition, the standard Mac mini has also now lost its optical drive"

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Buyers' Guide

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Tim Hardwick
Production Editor

The long-awaited refresh to the MacBook Air finally arrived in July with Apple adding a choice of Intel Core i5 and Core i7 processors to the 11-inch and 13-inch models. The new processors are up to 2.5 times faster than the Intel Core 2 Duo chips they replace. The new Airs are also cheaper than before, with prices starting at just £849 for the 11-inch 64GB model.

The Mac mini finally received a revamp too, with two new models sporting Intel Core i5 chips. The high-end £699 version also includes a Core i7 prococessor as a build-to-order option and sports a discrete ATI Radeon HD graphics card for much better 3D gaming performance. Controversially, neither of the new Mac minis include an optical drive, a trend Apple started with the MacBook Air.

The white MacBook has also reached the end of the road. It's been removed from the Apple Store and is only available now to educational institutions.

>> BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you choose!

BUY FROM JOHN LEWIS and get a free 2 year warranty! p68

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The Mac Pro is also available in a Server Edition. Out of the box, it boasts a 2.8GHz CPU, two 1TB hard drives, 8GB of memory and OS X Lion Server preinstalled.

The mid-2011 refresh brought quad-core Sandy Bridge processors to the iMac range.

The Mac Pro offers an ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB GDDR5 graphics card, a 1TB hard drive and an 18x SuperDrive.

Apple sells its products every which way at once. You can buy a Mac direct from the online Apple Store (**http://store.apple.com/uk**); from one of the growing number of bricks-and-mortar Apple Stores around the country; from official 'Apple shops' within department stores, staffed by certified Apple Solutions Consultants; and from hundreds of independent Apple Authorised Resellers and Premium Resellers, variously selling online or on the high street.

The bigger independents buy direct from Apple, while others go through a network of distributors, listed at **www.apple.com/uk/buy/distributors**. Given this range of outlets, shopping around for your Mac could save you money – but probably not very much. There simply isn't much profit margin for independent dealers to knock off. The Mac's popularity means Apple doesn't have to leave a big gap between its wholesale prices and Apple Store prices – effectively the minimum and maximum level at which retailers can sell their wares.

Authorised Resellers may knock a few pounds off Apple Store prices, and can also sell you other kit at competitive prices. Although you may find fractionally lower prices online, by choosing a local dealer you could get the benefit of trying before you buy and having someone on hand to answer questions. Either way, Mac resellers tend to be very knowledgeable and keen to help.

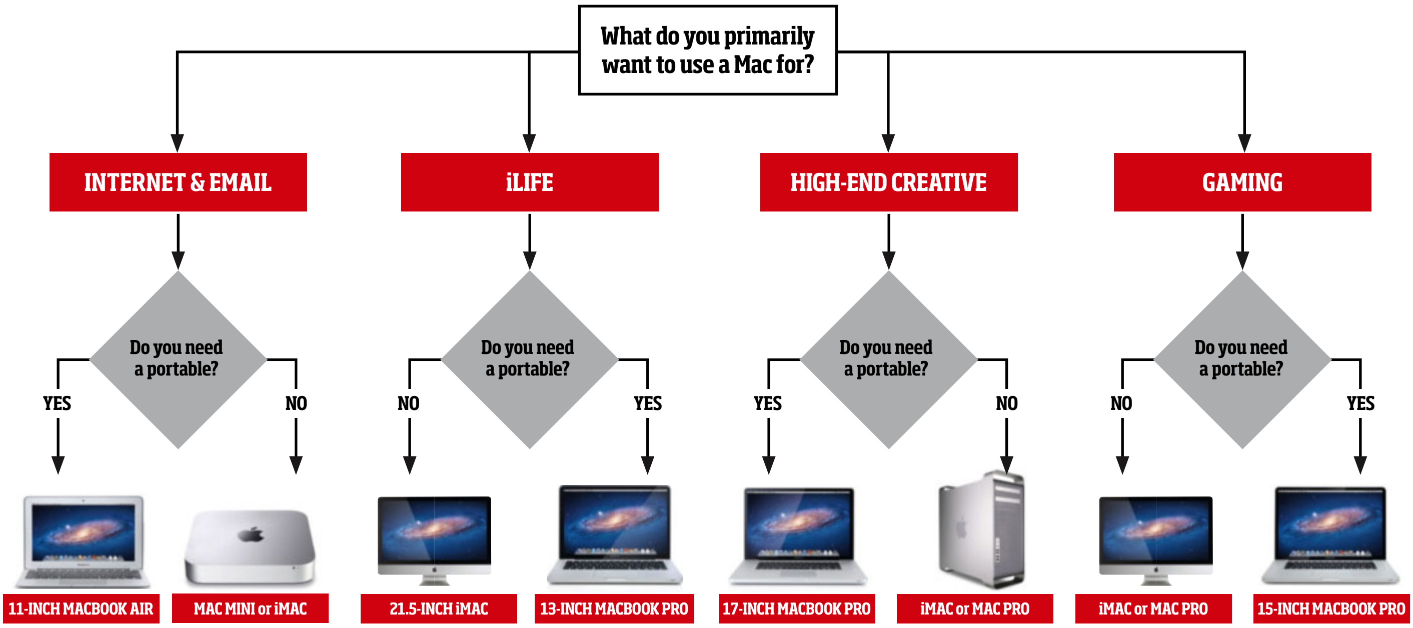
There are a couple of other ways to cut the cost of a new Mac. Business buyers can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax. If you're not eligible, you may still qualify for a discount from Apple. Any student or teacher can get special pricing, as listed at **http://bit.ly/jowOkc**. That includes schoolkids. The reductions aren't huge, but they're worth having. For example, a top-of-the-range 27-inch iMac lists for £1,550, compared to the regular price of £1,649. Authorised Resellers can access these special rates and may even shave a bit more off for you.

> *"Cut the cost of your new Mac. Business users can save a fortune by reclaiming the VAT and offsetting the purchase against tax"*

To help you find the cash, Apple also offers financing options. For consumers, this spreads the payments, though you do pay interest. For businesses, flexible leasing knocks more off your tax bill and lets you upgrade your hardware – and indeed software – when necessary without spending big chunks of capital. You can find out plenty more at **www.apple.com/uk/financing**.

Your budget will stretch even further with clearance, refurb and second-user deals. If you can suppress your envy of marginally newer, shinier kit, the best time to shop for a Mac is

CHOOSING A MAC / Which one is right for you?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Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
11-INCH MACBOOK AIR
MAC MINI or iMAC
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

just after Apple brings out new models. Wander down to John Lewis and you're quite likely to find the last of the old range with three-figure reductions. Do check the specs against the incoming versions, which will offer more for the same original price, but at the bottom end of the range you could pay less than the current entry-level for a perfectly good machine. Anywhere that holds Macs in stock is similarly worth a raid, and online retailers also have clearance bins.

Apple MacBooks come in a range of screen sizes, from the 11-inch Air to the 17-inch Pro

Saving money

Apple itself has a surprisingly little-known online bargain basement at http://store.apple.com/uk/browse/home/specialdeals/mac. It's a treasure trove of cut-price kit, with some clearance items and many described as 'refurbished'. This usually means someone's bought a Mac, then changed their mind or found a problem and sent it back. Industry insiders tell us these returns often have absolutely nothing wrong with them, and in any case they're fully tested and any faults fixed before they're resold. They're guaranteed for a full year, extendable up to three years via AppleCare.

Besides deciding who to buy from, there's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can have a MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. Most Mac families offer several standard models, plus plenty of built-to-order options, adding up to hundreds of possibilities.

By comparing the prices of different configurations – easily done at http://store.apple.com/uk – you can suss out the best value. For example, the entry-level 21.5-inch iMac is a bargain at £999. If you want a higher spec, the next option doubles the hard disk space and adds a more powerful graphics card, but it's an extra £250. However, you're not limited to the preset models. By clicking the Select button, you can tweak the listed specifications to create your own Mac. The only downside is that you'll need to allow a week or two for your own personal Mac to arrive.

Just think of it as an exercise in delayed gratification.

> *"There's the tricky question of which Mac to pick. You can plump for a MacBook Pro, MacBook Air, Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest MacBook Pros, released in February 2011, have new Sandy Bridge processors, great new graphics solutions and the new ultra-fast Thunderbolt connectivity port.

How to choose the perfect Mac

Let us help you make the right purchase. Here are your options…

21.5-inch 2.5GHz

£999

• 2.5GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)• 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 500GB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

21.5-inch 2.7GHz

£1,249

• 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 1x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.7GHz

£1,399

• 2.7GHz quad-core Intel Core i5 • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)-• 4GB RAM (expndable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6770M graphics with 512MB GDDR5 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt ports; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.1GHz

£1,649

• 3.1GHz quad core Intel Core i5 • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive • AMD Radeon HD 6970M graphics with 1GB GDDR5 memory-• 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 port; 2x Thunderbolt port; 1xSDXC card slot • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '11, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

Updated
May
2011

2.3GHz 500GB

£529

• 2.3GHz dual core Intel Core i5 • 2GB RAM (2x 1GB 1333MHz) • 500GB SATA, 5,400rpm HDD • 3MB shared L3 cache • Intel HD Graphics 3000 with 288MB of DDR3 SDRAM shared with main memory• 802.11n WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0,10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet • 1x Thunderbolt, 1xFireWire 800, 4x USB 2.0 ports • SDXC card reader • Lion, iLife '11 • HDMI video out with HDMI to DVI adapter • No optical drive

2.5GHz 500GB

£699

• 2.5GHz dual core Intel Core i5 • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB 1333MHz) • 500GB SATA, 5,400rpm HDD • 3MB shared L3 cache • AMD Radeon HD 6630M graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR5 memory• 802.11n WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0, 10/100/1000BASE-T Ethernet • 1x Thunderbolt, 1xFireWire 800, 4x USB 2.0 ports • SDXC card reader • Lion, iLife '11 • HDMI video out with HDMI to DVI adapter • No optical drive

Mac mini

Updated
July
2011

Quad-Core
£2,041

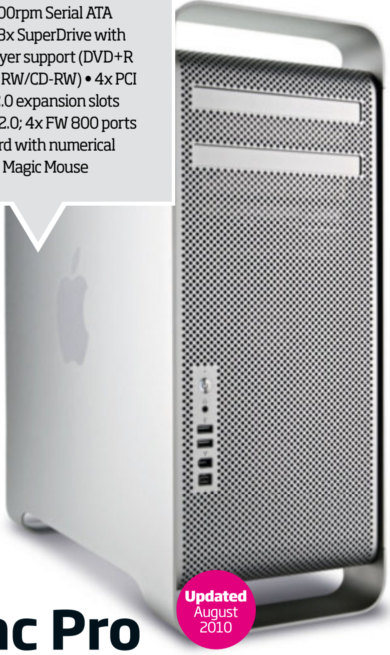
• 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (expandable to up to 16GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

8 -Core
£2,859

• Two 2.4GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 4x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse

12-Core
£4,083

• Two 2.6GHz 6-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (expandable to up to 32GB) • ATI Radeon HD 5770 with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Two Mini DisplayPorts, one DVI port • 1TB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FW 800 ports • Keyboard with numerical keypad & Magic Mouse



Mac Pro

Updated August 2010

13-inch 2.3GHz
£999

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.3GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 320GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

13-inch 2.7GHz
£1,299

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.7GHz dual-core Intel Core i7 processor • 7-hour battery • 4GB (two 2GB SO-DIMMs) of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • Intel HD Graphics 3000 • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC card slot

15-inch 2.0GHz
£1,549

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.0GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 500GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6490M graphics processor with 256MB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

15-inch 2.2GHz
£1,849

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6 and iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FW 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SDXC slot

17-inch 2.2GHz
£2,099

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.2GHz quad-core Intel Core i7, 6MB shared L3 cache • 4GB 1333MHz DDR3 memory • 750GB, 5,400rpm hard drive • 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • AMD Radeon HD 6750M graphics processor with 1GB of GDDR5 memory • Mac OS X 10.6, iLife '11 • 1x Thunderbolt port, 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated Feb 2011

MacBook Pro

13-inch models
£1,099/£1,349

• 1.7GHz Intel Core i5 CPU • 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1440x900 pixels • 128GB or 256GB of flash storage • Intel HD Graphics 3000 processor • 4GB of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • Seven-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Thunderbolt port, 802.11n WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0 • SD reader • Lion and iLife '11

Updated July 2011

11-inch models
£849/£999

• 1.6GHz Intel Core i5 CPU • 11.6-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen at 1366x768 pixels • 64GB or 128GB of flash storage • Intel HD Graphics 3000 processor • 2GB or 4GB of 1333MHz DDR3 memory • Five-hour battery life, or 30 days on standby • FaceTime camera • 2x USB 2.0 ports, Thunderbolt port, 802.11n WiFi, Bluetooth 4.0 • Lion and iLife '11 preinstalled

Updated July 2011

MacBook Air

What about an iPhone or iPad?

Apple's mobile devices are designed to sync perfectly with your Mac

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

There are several models of Apple's iPad 2 to choose from. You can select storage capacities of 16GB, 32GB and 64GB. Each of these are available with Wi-Fi-only connectivity, or Wi-Fi and 3G.

Both the iPhone and iPad have a touchscreen, come with email and web-browsing applications and are capable of running third-party apps that you can get from Apple's App Store. But the iPad isn't simply a bigger iPhone. The iPhone is first and foremost a phone, and like all mobile phones, unless you buy it on Pay as You Go (which makes the device itself much more expensive) you're going to be tied into a phone contract.

If you want all the features of the iPhone but without the phone part, then consider getting an iPod touch instead (see over the page). If you're looking for a phone then you'll find the iPhone is designed to cover all your data needs while you're on the go, and fits in your pocket.

In contrast, the iPad is a device that sits somewhere between an iPhone and a Mac. It also comes with a 3G data contract option, but that doesn't include phone calls. The only phone calls you can make with it will be digitally, using VoIP apps, such as *Skype*. While a lot of people find the iPhone perfectly acceptable for home use, if you just need to check your email or do a quick bit of web surfing, the iPad is positively designed to be used from your sofa. It has built-in Wi-Fi, which means you can check emails and browse the web on your wireless network at home. Here it would fulfil most functions of a laptop, but don't fall into the trap of thinking of the iPad as a replacement for a home computer.

The iPhone 4 has a much better screen than previous models. This Retina display has a 960x640 pixel resolution.

Use your iPad 2 to surf the web, run apps, send and receive emails, and listen to your music.

> "The iPad uses solid-state memory, so it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight"

It's fundamentally designed to be an accessory. You're meant to keep your data on your Mac and sync your iPad with it, not the other way around.

It does have some big advantages over a Mac laptop, though. For a start, because it uses solid-state memory it's pretty-much instant on. There's no waiting around for it to boot up. It's also lightweight, extremely portable and the perfect size to be used as an ebook reader.

The iPhone currently comes in two versions, the 3GS and iPhone 4. The latest model, the iPhone 4, features a stunning new 960x640 high-resolution display, making it much easier to read on-screen text. The screen itself is now IPS (in plane switching) for great viewing angles. However you hold it, the colours won't shift. There's also a front-facing camera for video chat and HD video recording using the rear camera.

The iPad 2 comes in black and white, each in three capacities, 16GB, 32GB and 64GB, available in Wi-Fi or Wi-Fi + 3G versions. Each 3G version costs £100 more than a Wi-Fi-only model with a similar memory capacity. Prices start at £399 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version, and go up to £659 for the top-range 64GB Wi-Fi + 3G iPad.

iPad 2

Updated March 2011

iPad 16GB
£399 Wi-Fi
£499 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 3G only) • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 32GB
£479 Wi-Fi
£579 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 3G only) • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPad 64GB
£559 Wi-Fi
£659 Wi-Fi + 3G

• 9.7-inch LED-widescreen, 1024x768 pixels • 1GHz dual core Apple A5 CPU • 25Wh battery gives up to 10 hours use • 3.5mm stereo headphone jack • Built-in speaker & mic • 720p, 30 fps rear-facing camera, VGA front camera • GPS (iPad Wi-Fi + 3G only) • 241.2x185.7x8.8mm • 601g (Wi-Fi), 613g (Wi-Fi + 3G) • Accelerometer, three-axis gyro, ambient light sensor

iPhone

Updated June 2010

iPhone 3GS 8GB
£428 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black • 3.5-inch widescreen • 320x480 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime) • 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g • Requires Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later

iPhone 4 16GB
£510 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

iPhone 4 32GB
£612 (Pay & Go)

• Available in black or white • 3.5-inch widescreen • 960x640 pixels • Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • Photo and video geotagging • Battery lasts up to 40 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 14 hours (talktime) • 115.5x58.6x9.3mm • 137g • Requires Mac OS X 10.5.8 or later

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
CONTINUING PROFFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing iOS Apps for the iPhone and iPad with Xcode

A five-day course starting Monday 5 September 2011

Course overview

This short course provides hands-on experience of developing commercial software for the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch platforms. It has been designed to give developers an introduction to the main views, interfaces and hardware capabilities of Apple's mobile devices, as well as using development and debugging tools. The course is being delivered by the University's Computer Science Department.

Who should attend? Is it right for me?

This module is aimed at individuals who want to explore mobile app development, as well as businesses that need to develop their own apps. Delegates will have some software development knowledge and some experience of programming in a compiled language; ideally a C-based language such as C, C#, C++ or Java. No previous experience of Objective-C, Mac OSX software development or iPhone development is required.

What will delegates learn?

By the end of this module, delegates will have an understanding of:

- The iPhone app lifecycle, and the underlying event model
- The Model View Controller design pattern and its use in application software development
- How to present textual, graphical and multimedia data through a graphical user interface
- How data can be pulled from external sources and stored locally for offline presentation
- How data can be acquired from the user or the environment and pushed to an external server
- How to design apps given the resource limitations of small, mobile devices.

To find out more:

The fee for this course is only £1000.
For more information and to book a place on this course please visit;
www.csc.liv.ac.uk/department/cpd.html

Closing date for registration: 31 August 2011

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LOVE OUR APPS!

The Essential iLife '11 Handbook
iPad: The Essential Handbook
100 tricks and tips for iPad 2
180 pages of expert advice & tutorials
Essential techniques every iLife owner should know!
The essential iLife '11 handbook
Make more of the Mac's creative software today!
Mac presents iPad
100 tricks & tips for iPad 2
From the makers of... Tap! MacLife techradar

Get them at:
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/apps

Available on the App Store

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Magic Trackpad

★★★★☆
Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 226
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/ 713555
Key specs: 13.13x13.01x1.83cm; Bluetooth connectivity; powered by 2x AA batteries; requires Mac OS X 10.6.4

⊕ Brings the MacBook's famous gestures to Apple's desktop range
⊖ Snow Leopard only

"Well conceived and beautifully executed, it's well worth a try if you use a Mac Pro, iMac or Mac mini at home or work."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £84 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
⊕ Gesture support, good software bundle
⊖ Expensive

Microsoft Arc Mouse ★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Full review: www.techradar.com/913796
Key specs: Wireless operation; foldable form factor
⊕ Highly portable. Has four customisable buttons
⊖ Might not suit those who like a small mouse

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP640

★★★★★
Price: £200 **Reviewed:** Issue 215
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/644919
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); supports all major memory card formats; on-body printing

⊕ Phenomenal feature package; great print quality
⊖ Weak instructions might confuse newbies

"The mix of stellar print quality and an excellent feature package make the Canon MP640 a great buy."

Canon PIXMA MG6150 ★★★★★

Price: £150 **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719361
Key specs: Six-tank inkjet; touch-sensitive controls
⊕ Comprehensive connectivity; stellar print quality
⊖ Could be faster

Samsung ML-2855ND ★★★★★

Price: £154 **Reviewed:** Issue 221
Key specs: Mono laser printer
Full review: MF Issue 221 group test
⊕ Incredible value to run and great print quality
⊖ A little bulky, and obviously won't do colour

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆
Price: £918 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/912746
Key specs: 27-inch LED screen, 2,560x 1,440, 12ms response time, 3x self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

⊕ Bright and sharp; good speakers; single cable to Mac
⊖ Height not adjustable; very expensive; average colour consistency

"The picture's sharp and the colours are bright and vivid, but just look at that price tag. Quality, but too expensive."

EIZO FORIS FS2331 ★★★★★

Price: £315 **Reviewed:** Issue 237
Full review: MF Issue 237 group test
Key specs: Good value mid-range monitor
⊕ Good text reproduction; excellent for gamers
⊖ No major drawbacks to speak of

Samsung FX2490HD ★★★★☆

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Full review: www.techradar.com/908753
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x1,280 res
⊕ Great screen, good audio, includes TV tuner
⊖ Lacks adjustability, pricey and lacks HD channels

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Sennheiser HD 518

★★★★★
Price: £95 **Reviewed:** Issue 235
Web: www.sennheiser.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/954009
Key specs: Frequency response 14Hz-26KHz; cable length 3m; connector; 6.3mm stereo jack with 3.5mm adapter

⊕ Excellent sound quality; comfortable, lightweight design
⊖ Not great with low bitrate MP3s; no inline mic and controls

"Ideal for all-day listening, these headphones have audiophile chops aplenty. Very comfortable too."

Arcam rCube ★★★★★

Price: £500 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926264
Key specs: Mains or rechargeable battery-powered
⊕ Stellar sound; robust and stylish; transportable
⊖ Harshly exposes heavily compressed MP3s

Orbit USB Stereo ★★★★½

Price: £33 **Reviewed:** Issue 236
Full review: www.techradar.com/963037
Key specs: 2x40mm drivers, travel bag included
⊕ Crisp, clear sound; very portable; good value
⊖ Bass not very prominent

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon IXUS 220HS

★★★★★

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 235
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/932082
Key specs: 12.1MP resolution; 4.3-21.5mm lens f/2.7-f/5.9; electronic viewfinder 2.7-inch LCD with 230,000 dots

⊕ Stylish, tough steel body; easy to carry; high quality images
⊖ LCD reflections in the sun

"Even at lower settings, this camera impresses with the detail it captures. A good choice for snapping social events."

Samsung WB2000 ★★★★½

Price: £266 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Full review: www.techradar.com/905154
Key specs: 10MP; 4.3-21.5mm lens; SD and SDHC
⊕ Superb image quality; 1080p video; creative
⊖ Some handling issues

Panasonic Lumix DMC-GH2 ★★★★☆

Price: £750 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/926611
Key specs: 18.32MP; 14-42mm lens; SD/SDHC/SDXC
⊕ Smooth video output; articulated LED screen
⊖ Some small controls; too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Sony HDR-CX115E

★★★★★

Price: £300 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Web: www.sony.co.uk
Full review: MF Issue 233 group test
Key specs: 1920x1080 resolution; 2.7-inch LCD; covers MPEG4-AVC and H.264 recording formats

⊕ Excellent all-round performance, and a compact, portable form factor
⊖ There are cheaper camcorders around

"The Sony provides you with all you'd want from a camcorder, with excellent build, features and quality."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £1,140 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Samsung VP-HMX 20C ★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP
⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD
⊖ Really need to shop around for price

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7390

★★★★★

Price: £250 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/912929
Key specs: 802.11n, g, b and a; dual band 2.4GHz and 5GHz; power consumption 6-8 watts; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including dual band wireless 'n'; very fast
⊖ Expensive, especially if you don't want the telephony functions

"Fast and feature-rich, the FRITZ!Box 7390 could transform your home network. Great traffic-shaping features too."

Devolo dLAN Wireless 'n' ★★★★☆

Price: £115 **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926334
Key specs: Three Ethernet ports plus Wi-Fi
⊕ Easy to set up and use; versatile; fast speeds
⊖ A little bulky for some skirting boards

Cisco Linksys E4200 ★★★★☆

Price: £169 **Reviewed:** Issue 237
Full review: www.techradar.com/938920
Key specs: Six Wi-Fi antennas, four Ethernet ports
⊕ Traffic management features; good range
⊖ No built-in modem

STORAGE

Seagate GoFlex Slim

★★★★☆

Price: £74 **Reviewed:** Issue 236
Web: www.seagateactive.com
Full review: MF Issue 236 group test
Key specs: 320GB capacity; USB 3.0 port can be replaced with FireWire or Thunderbolt port; ultra-thin

⊕ NTFS-formatted for PC and Mac compatibility, with drivers included
⊖ Not a great range of capacities at the time of writing

"A good looking, well built and versatile drive with a prestige to match its name. It's extremely portable too."

Buffalo Dualie 500GB ★★★★½

Price: £119 **Reviewed:** Issue 220
Full review: www.techradar.com/678951
Key specs: USB 2.0 and FireWire connectivity
⊕ Attractive, robust, space-saving design
⊖ Expensive; drive slows when iPhone docked

DataTraveler Locker+ 8GB ★★★★½

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 232
Full review: www.techradar.com/930867
Key specs: 256-bit AES security
⊕ Password-protects your data; good price
⊖ Can't function without its launcher app

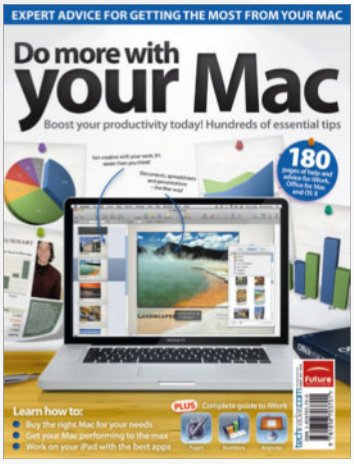
Love this mag?
LOVE OUR APPS!

100 tricks & tips for iPad 2
Tap!
T3
101 GADGETS YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
Mac FORMAT
Unleashing OS X Lion
NEVER LOSE A FILE AGAIN!
84 PAGES OF ADVICE!

100 tricks and tips for iPad 2
T3 the world's greatest gadget magazine
MacFormat magazine

Get them at:
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/apps

Available on the App Store



Work better on your Mac

Discover the best ways to be more productive with your Mac and essential office apps. Whether you're new to the Mac or you already use one, we'll show you how to work faster, do more with iWork and boost your Mac with cool tweaks, handy utilities and top upgrades.

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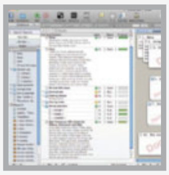
www.myfavouritemagazines.co.uk/computer

BUYERS' GUIDE

HOME OFFICE

Scrivener 2.0



★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.literatureandlatte.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/913378
System reqs: A Mac with either an Intel or an older PPC procesor can be used; minimum version of OS X is 10.4: Tiger

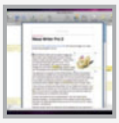
⊕ Great new features; improved corkboard; better outlining
⊖ Some aspects are quite complex

"Far and away the best application available for long-form writing, on any platform. A superb update."

MS Office for Mac 2011 ★★★★☆

Price: From £76 **Reviewed:** Issue 228
Full review: www.techradar.com/903277
System reqs: OS X 10.5.8 or later; Intel Mac
⊕ Cheaper and faster than 2008; new features
⊖ No upgrade pricing

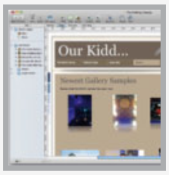
Nisus Writer Pro 2 ★★★★★



Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 237
Full review: www.techradar.com/974528
System reqs: OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Clean, fast and stable; EPUB export
⊖ Nisus Writer Express might be enough

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Freeway 5.5 Pro



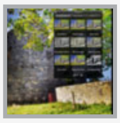
★★★★★

Price: £155 **Reviewed:** Issue 230
Web: www.softpress.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/919171
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or higher; Intel or PowerPC processor; Tiger users can run Version 5.4.3

⊕ Powerful layout controls; built-in web image optimising; new features
⊖ Weak HTML import; only one undo

"Freeway 5.5 Pro is great for website design work, and doesn't ask for a degree in coding first."

Ohanaware HDRtist Pro ★★★★★



Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 235
Full review: www.techradar.com/954888
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5 or later; 1GB RAM
⊕ Great value for money; ideal for novices
⊖ No zoom function for fine detail

Photoshop Elements 9 ★★★★½

Price: £58 (£65 bundled) **Reviewed:** Issue 227
Full review: www.techradar.com/719934
System reqs: OS X 10.4.11+, Intel Mac, 512MB
⊕ New Guided Edit mode; Layer masks; Organizer
⊖ Some features not so effective

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Bjango iStat Menus 3

★★★★★

Price: £11 **Reviewed:** Issue 223
Web: www.bjango.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/694688
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later. The last version to offer compatibility with OS X 10.4: Tiger was iStat Menus 1.3

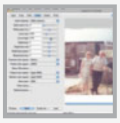
⊕ Updated interface; simpler intstallation; great new features
⊖ It's no longer free, though it's certainly worth paying for

"A solid upgrade to what was already a first-rate add-on for any Mac. A great application that continues to improve."

Roxio Toast 11 Titanium ★★★★½

Price: £85 **Reviewed:** Issue 233
Full review: www.techradar.com/936399
System reqs: OS X 10.5 or later, Intel Mac
⊕ Great new features, slick new interface
⊖ Fickle VIDEO_TS conversion

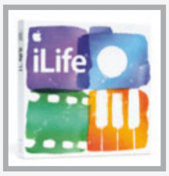
VueScan 9.0 ★★★★★



Price: From $40 (£12) **Reviewed:** Issue 231
Full review: www.techradar.com/926342
System reqs: OS X 10.3.9 or later
⊕ Extends the life of out-of-date scanners
⊖ The wizard could do more

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iLife '11



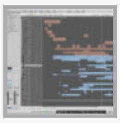
★★★★½

Price: £46 **Reviewed:** Issue 229
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com
System reqs: Intel processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.6.3 or later; 5GB HDD space; display, min. 1280x768-pixel resolution.

⊕ Great new features for iPhoto, iMovie and GarageBand
⊖ iDVD and iWeb not updated; the iLife suite is now Snow Leopard-only

"It's a pity iLife '11 is Intel-only, but as PowerPC Macs were discontinued in 2006, it's probably time to let go."

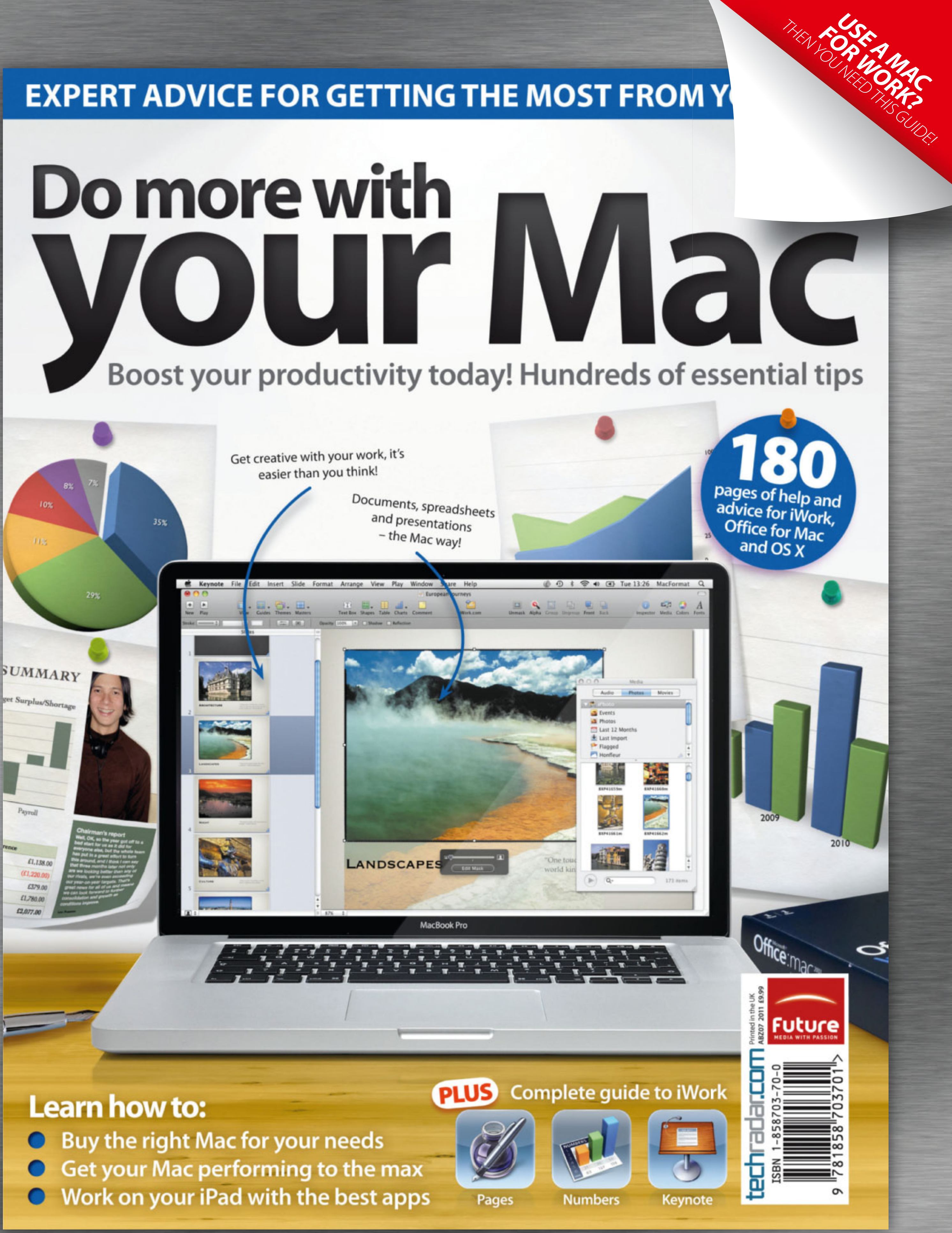
Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★



Price: £417 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★½

Price: £32 **Reviewed:** Issue 225
Full review: www.techradar.com/709610
System reqs: 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4 or later
⊕ Great new tools, including masking function
⊖ It's not the Mac's best-looking app



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[4] Bracknell Forest MUG
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[5] ClubMac Ireland
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[7] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
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[8] Deaf Mac Users
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Keep your internet passwords safe and in one place with this brilliant utility from Selznick Scientific Software. To use it, simply enter the details you want to store and then secure them with a master password and *Password Wallet*'s 448-bit Blowfish encryption. Other neat features include Auto-Typing, which enables *Password Wallet* to enter website logins for you. To get 20% off the £12.50 asking price go to http://bit.ly/qew3Ie, click Buy and then enter MacFormat25 into the Apply Coupon box.

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If you like *Ulysses 1.6f*, why not upgrade to the current version? *Ulysses 2.0* includes a great range of new features, is easier to use and even cheaper than before – you can buy it from the Mac App Store for just £21.

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DaisyDisk 1.5

Easily reclaim hard disk space

The words 'pretty' and 'utility' don't often go together, but they apply equally in the case of *DaisyDisk* – a program that quickly identifies all the files on your hard drive, then shows them off in an interactive map that makes it easy to see which ones are taking up the most space.

Upgrade offer

If you decide you like *DaisyDisk 1.5.3*, then you should check out the latest version (2.0), which is faster and more fun to use. You can get *DaisyDisk 2.0* for just £9.06 – that's 30% off the regular upgrade price – by going to http://bit.ly/pxBqRi.

>>DISK UTILITY

DropDMG 2.8

Perfect for backups and more

Disk image (DMG) files are a great way to gather up collections of files for backups or transfer. You can create disk images using *Disk Utility*, but why bother when this app is so easy to use? To unlock the full version, type the details below into the DropDMG > Purchase box: Serial Name: MacFormat Promo Serial Number: drdmgx2001-HNX5-S2MU-539Z-3HA5-RV4Q.

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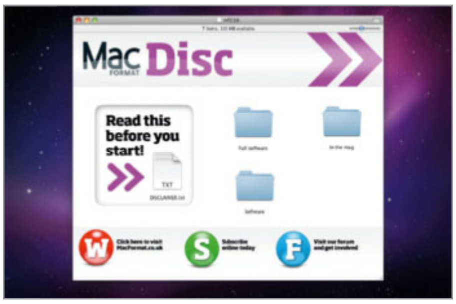
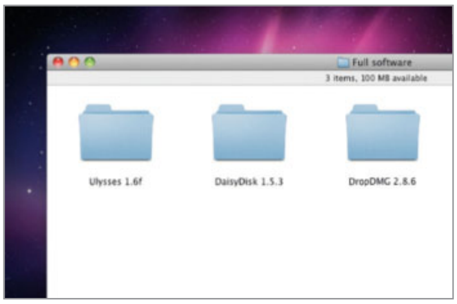
If you like *DropDMG 2.8.6*, upgrade to version 3.0.7! Get 50% off by going to http://bit.ly/oayYHX and entering the serial number above.

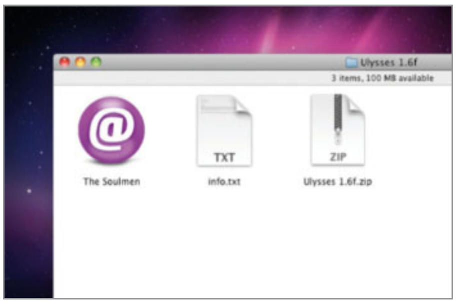
>>FINDING A SERIAL CODE

Most of the full products on the disc will require some sort of activation over the internet. Locate the apps folder on the disc then you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon. This will take you to the website where you get your code.

>>HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc







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02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.

03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the app itself. Drag it to your desktop to open. ●

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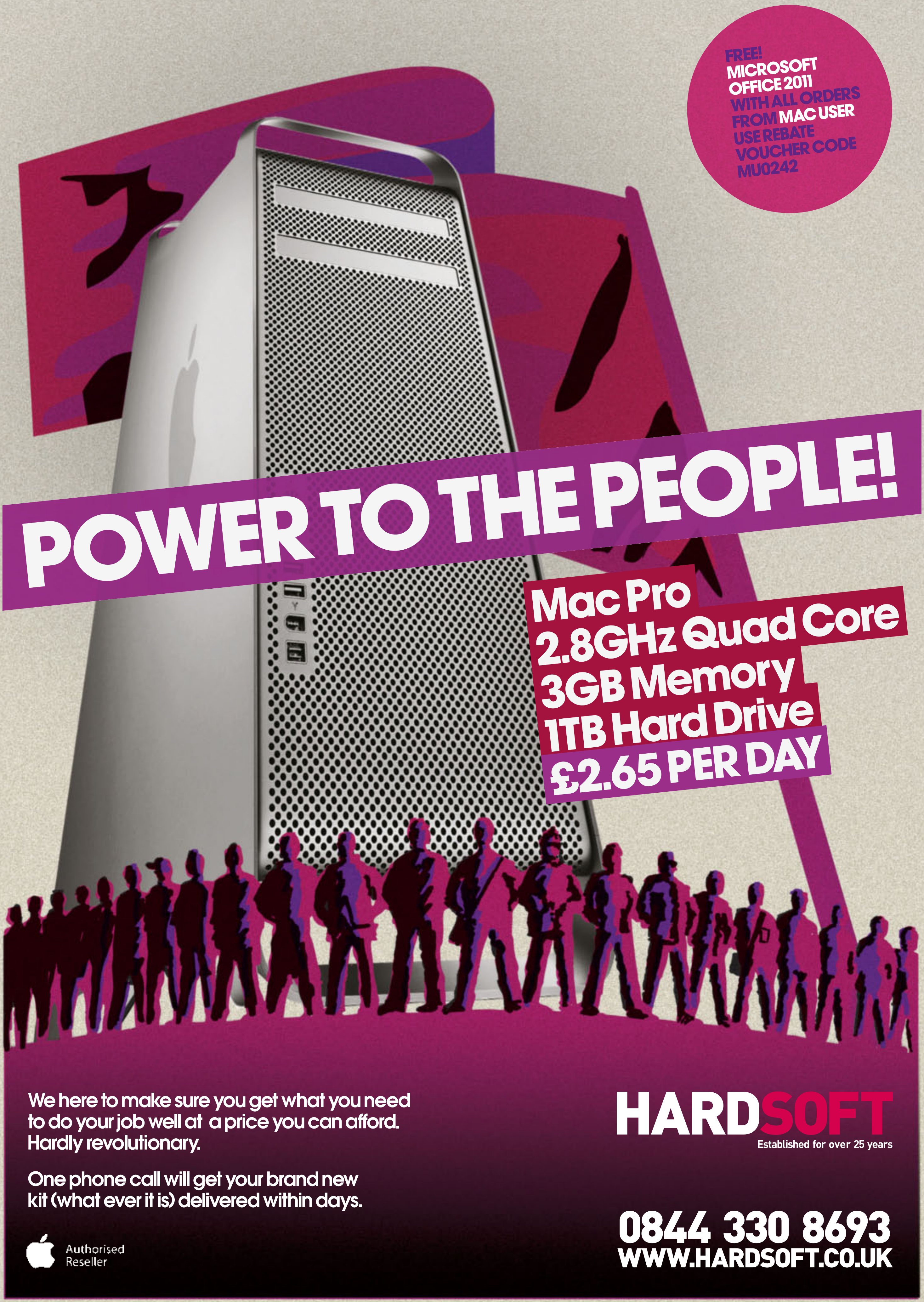

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